

Hurd critical of Irish court's ruling

● Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, criticized the Irish court over its handling of the Evelyn Glenholmes extradition request and its refusal to accept a telephone call from Scotland Yard as evidence

● But he agreed with Conservative backbenchers that there had been incompetence in the Director of Public Prosecutions' office and promised changes to avoid such failures in future

● Nine new warrants for the arrest of Miss Glenholmes, who is wanted in connection with London bombings, including three murders, were on their way to Dublin from London yesterday

● The Garda resumed its search for Miss Glenholmes, but she will already have assumed a disguise and will be provided with a new identity and passport by Republican friends sheltering her in a safe house, page 2

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday criticized the Irish court for refusing to allow an adjournment in the case of Miss Evelyn Glenholmes, the IRA terrorist suspect who escaped extradition to Britain on a legal technicality on Saturday.

He also appeared to criticize the court for failing to accept the "normal practice" of a telephone call from New Scotland Yard to the Garda as evidence that a fresh extradition warrant had been issued in London that morning.

But in Commons exchanges he agreed with one of his own backbenchers that there had been "incompetence" on the part of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and he pledged a shake-up to ensure that there would be no repetition of the "failure".

Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Opposition spokesman, said that "incompetence, incompetence and complacency brought about this discreditable botch-up", and he was later joined by Conservative backbenchers in fruitlessly demanding that disciplinary action should be taken against the culpable officials in the DPP's office.

There were also demands that Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General and the law officer responsible for the

DPP's office, should answer to the House.

With Sir Michael sitting silently at his side, Mr Hurd explained that the Glenholmes extradition warrants had been considered defective because they had been based on evidence originally made on oath last October.

The October warrants had been withdrawn because of

Unionists appear to be heading for all-out confrontation with the Government after the Prime Minister insisted the Anglo-Irish Agreement would not be suspended.

Mrs Thatcher has written to the Unionist leaders saying she was prepared to talk, but that the agreement with Dublin would remain in place.

technical faults, but when new warrants had been issued in November the evidence was not re-sworn as required in Irish law.

At that point Miss Glenholmes had "disappeared from view" and when she was re-arrested on March 12 her extradition was sought on the basis of November's defective warrants.

The Home Secretary told the House: "The extradition application failed because of a

technical objection taken by the Dublin court."

He said that Sir Michael and he regretted that the objection had not been foreseen in time.

Meanwhile, Sir Michael had "instructed" Sir Thomas Hetherington, the DPP for England and Wales, and his opposite number in Ulster "to ensure personally that all outstanding warrants in respect of terrorist offences are checked at once for accuracy and sufficiency".

In response to a question from Mr Kaufman, Mr Hurd stressed: "We have no criticism of the co-operation we received in this matter from the Irish authorities."

But he pointedly failed to deliver similar exoneration for the court.

Asked by Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington and a barrister, whether it would not have been sufficient for the court to adjourn the hearing "before releasing into the community a notorious wanted criminal", Mr Hurd said he chose his words with care in replying "that it would have been possible for the court to take a different decision on the request for an adjournment".

Man in the news, Page 2

Six die as fierce gales and snow sweep country



The uprooted tree which crashed down on a makeshift classroom in Maidstone, Kent causing the death of a pupil aged 18

Tragedy as tree falls on school

By Patricia Clough

A youth aged 18 was crushed yesterday after a 60-foot tree crashed into a makeshift classroom in Maidstone, Kent. He was among at least six people who died as gales gusting up to 100 miles an hour tore across southern Britain yesterday, wreaking havoc and destruction.

In parts of Scotland, the Pennines and Welsh mountains, snow blocked roads, cut off villages and brought a spate of accidents. Thick fog between Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire caused a pile-up of 40 vehicles on the M62. Three vehicles burst into flames and eight people were injured.

The south-westerly gales were caused by a vicious depression sweeping across England, bringing cold air into contact with the warmer air in the south and west, a spokesman at the London Weather Centre said.

"These are equinoctial gales, very typical for this time of the year but worse than normal", he said. They were expected to die down and give way to colder weather with rain or snow showers by today but a cycle of gales followed by cold weather could start again on Wednesday.

The Weather Centre was not able to forecast the weather for Easter but it was likely to be unsettled, the spokesman said.

Steven Laws, aged 18, was trapped for half an hour after a large sycamore was "literally blown out of the ground", a fireman said, and through the ceiling of his temporary classroom at Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone, during an English lesson. He died later in hospital.

Another boy was taken to hospital but was said to be not seriously injured. Nine students and their teacher were in the classroom at the time.

A crane operator, aged 55, was crushed to death when his crane was blown over at Tipton, West Midlands. At Kings Lynn, Norfolk, a woman aged 55 was blown into the River Ouse. She was rescued by police but was dead on arrival at hospital.

In Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, an elderly man died after being hit by a wooden panel torn from a shed.

In Northampton, a van driver was killed as he swerved to avoid a falling tree and crashed into an oncoming vehicle. Another driver died as three heavy vehicles collided in snow at Barkston Ash, North Yorkshire.

The Severn Bridge was closed to traffic for the first time since 1974.

Thatcher denies share deal

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister last night repudiated reports that she had dealt in shares in her own name while Prime Minister.

In a statement from Downing Street replying to weekend reports that she had improperly dealt in shares Mrs Thatcher said that last year she had made arrangements for all her holdings of shares to be transferred to a firm of investment managers with full powers to buy and sell shares without reference to her.

She said that in 1971 (when she was Secretary of State for Education and Science) she had bought a small shareholding in the Australian company, Broken Hill Proprietary, which was the firm mentioned.

She said it was registered in her own name. But between 1971 and 1986 the holding was increased to its current level through a series of rights issues, dividend issues and share splits. In other words the holding had been increased to its current level through a natural accrual rather than dealing.

She said that from when she transferred her affairs to the investment firm 1303 Broken Hill shares were transferred to the nominees of the investment managers and the remaining 24 shares were in the course of being transferred to them. The statement added: "All the shares are still held on her behalf; none have been sold."

The statement may still leave Mrs Thatcher open to attack from the opposition because of the admission that she bought the shareholding when she was a cabinet minister.

But Downing Street sources have said that she has meticulously observed the rules

Oil heads for \$10 with Opec in disarray

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

World oil prices are likely to resume their downward spiral after the crisis meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ended in disarray in Geneva yesterday.

Prices could tumble towards \$10 a barrel by the end of the week, according to oil traders who have been at the talks for the past week.

Trading in North Sea crude oil reacted sharply to the end of the talks with prices for delivery next month dropping 90 cents from Friday's \$13.90 and by more than a dollar to \$11.75 for delivery in June.

The impact of the meeting was felt on the Stock Exchange where share prices fell back sharply on dashed hopes of another early cut in base rates. The Financial Times 30-share index fell by 17.6 points to 1394.6. The wider FTSE 100-share index dropped by 24.4 points to 1663.9.

The pound fell by 1.38 cents to \$1.4877, but gained 2 1/2 pence to DM3.40. The sterling index ended unchanged at 75.9.

The effects of Opec's failure to agree were felt in the domestic money markets. Rates firmed and are now in line with base rates, currently 11.5 per cent.

On Friday, the Bank of England had to step in to prevent rates from falling too quickly. Now, another base rate cut is unlikely until well into next month. Government stocks were hit by market disappointment over base rate prospects, long-dated stocks fell by about 61.

Opec will resume its meeting on April 15, again probably in Geneva, though Kuwait is attempting to persuade the

Tougher line on smoking

By Nicholas Timmins

Cigarette advertising is to be banned in cinemas and in magazines with young readers under a new agreement with the tobacco industry announced by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday.

Stronger health warnings on cigarette packs and a £1 million a year campaign aimed at stopping the sale of cigarettes to children were also announced.

The agreement, which will run for three and a half years, also includes a freeze on poster advertising spending and a new joint committee between the industry and the health departments to uphold the agreement.

The British Medical Association, however, said the new agreement did little more than "attempt to paper over the cracks in the previous highly unsatisfactory agreement".

Action on Smoking and Health said the agreement was "clearly a step in the right direction".

The new health warnings—still on the side of the packs rather than in a more prominent position—for the first time warn of specific diseases.

Mr Fowler said the old warning "Smoking can seriously damage your health" had become too familiar and lost its impact.

The measures intended to protect the young were particularly important, he said.

Advertising near schools will be banned, brand names and logos will be banned on "give aways" for children at events such as roadshows and airshows.

Tomorrow Mothers of the future



Today's daughters are tomorrow's mothers—but how many will learn from the example of their own families? Bel Mooney reports

Whitehall on the fence

Are there shocks in store for the Civil Service?

Portfolio

There is £4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio competition because there was no winner yesterday. Portfolio list page 28, how to play, information service page 16.

This week the weekly prize of £20,000 will be awarded on Friday, rather than Saturday. This is because the Stock Exchange will be closed on Friday and there will be no daily prize for Saturday.

Spy claim

An Australian court has given Britain three weeks to detail objections to publication of a book by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 man who accused Sir Roger Hollis of being a KGB spy. Page 7

Killer drink

Drink kills 25,000 people a year and the British drink twice as much as 20 years ago, according to a report which calls for new curbs. Page 5

Care overhaul

The NSPCC, criticized in a report on the death of Heidi Kosoda, has acted to improve child care services. Page 3

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Glenholmes hunt on new warrants

By Stewart Tendler and Richard Ford

Nine fresh warrants for the arrest of Evelyn Glenholmes arrived or were on their way to Dublin from London yesterday at the beginning of the third big police hunt for the woman since Scotland Yard named her as a Provisional IRA fugitive to a London court in 1984.

In the meantime talks have begun in London between the Director of Public Prosecutions' office and Scotland Yard to prevent another legal debacle such as the one that freed Miss Glenholmes from an Irish court at the weekend.

One possibility being advanced by the police, still angry at the weekend's events, would be special legal teams that would handle the preparations for extraditing an IRA suspect and be on hand during the Irish court case.

Garda Siochana officers began the task of trying to find Miss Glenholmes, wanted as a suspect in London bombings involving three murders, before she could be smuggled out of the Republic to a country where extradition would be even more difficult.

Sir Thomas Hetherington, the DPP, and his staff refused to comment on the case, but an angry detective said that although no DPP official was in court in Dublin for two days of the extradition hearing an English barrister and a solicitor were present advising the defence.

It is understood that no members of the DPP's staff are to face dismissal or internal discipline for the legal blunder which gave the Irish woman her freedom. An Irish judge ruled on Saturday that nine English warrants were invalid because the information on which they were issued was not sworn before the London magistrate on the day

Hailsham agrees to pay talks with the Bar

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor has agreed to pay negotiations with the Bar. He will ask the Cabinet to approve a timetable for the talks which look set to end the High Court dispute over criminal legal aid fees.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone's decision, announced in the High Court yesterday, comes after clear hints at the end of last week from the Lord Chief Justice, who is hearing the case, that the Lord Chancellor was in the wrong.

Libyans fire, but miss US planes

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Libyan forces fired at least two Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles at US war planes yesterday when they flew over Colonel Gaddafi's "line of death" across the Gulf of Sirte, according to Pentagon sources. The missiles apparently missed by a wide margin.

Neither the Pentagon nor the State Department would officially confirm the attack. It appears that there was no immediate retaliation by the American planes or the Sixth Fleet, which began manoeuvres off the Libyan coast on Saturday night in a show of resolve against Libya's territorial claim over the entire gulf.

"There were reports of surface-to-air missiles, not dog fights," one source said last night. He added that there was evidence of an increasing

number of Libyan planes taking off from military bases. Pentagon sources said last night that "fragmentary" reports coming from the Sixth Fleet suggested that the missiles were SA-5s, a long-range weapon that can be used against targets up to 150 miles away but is generally considered ineffective against fast, low-flying jets.

If the reports are accurate, it will mark the first time that Libya has been known to fire the SA-5 missile. They have been installed along the Libyan coast around the Gulf of Sirte, according to the US.

Pentagon sources said several small ships with the Sixth Fleet followed the jet fighters across the "line of death" yesterday. They were not accompanied by the three carriers in the manoeuvres.

Lord Lane said he was "troubled" by this and found it

Report on pull-out by GM

By Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, will report to the Commons today on the breakdown of British Leyland privatization talks with General Motors.

Mrs Thatcher met ministers yesterday to hear a report from Mr Channon, and although officials sources were not ruling out a return of GM to the negotiating table, few MPs expected that to happen.

Mr John Taylor, Conservative MP for Solihull, who opposed the possibility of GM being allowed to buy a 49 per cent stake in Land Rover, described the GM offer as "a bid too far". He hoped the Government and British Leyland would open serious talks with Land Rover's management buy-out consortium.

Leading article, page 13

"very difficult to understand" why negotiations had stopped in December.

The action, brought on behalf of the 5,200 barristers of England and Wales in the name of the Bar chairman, Mr Robert Alexander, QC, was launched at that special meeting in February.

The Lord Chancellor also faces High Court proceedings brought by the Law Society of England and Wales. The action, which makes the same claims as that by the Bar, is due to be heard after Easter.

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Rules for disciplining doctors assailed as costly and unworkable

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health ministers are being pressed to change the procedure for disciplining doctors in the wake of the Wendy Savage inquiry. Health authorities are warning the Department of Health and Social Security that the procedure has become "unworkable".

It is unfair both to health authorities, who face huge delays and costs in trying to get rid of incompetent doctors, and to doctors themselves. Those who are cleared by the end of the procedure may have been suspended for four years or more at a cost to the National Health Service of £250,000.

Even when a doctor is cleared, health authorities say, so much time may have elapsed and so much bad blood may have been generated that it is difficult or impossible for the doctor to go back to work.

A confidential memorandum from Trent Regional Health Authority to the chairman, managers and regional medical officers of the other 13 NHS regions, says the procedure is "out of date, complicated, slow and very costly". It has become "progressively unworkable".

The procedure, which is used to deal with cases of

serious professional misconduct or incompetence, is "cumbersome and bureaucratic" and "positively detrimental" for both health authorities and doctors.

District medical officers in other regions are now saying privately they will not use the procedure because of the time it takes, the cost and the uncertainty about the outcome.

The Trent memorandum says that the need to take the huge costs into account inhibits health authorities from taking disciplinary action over professional incompetence or misconduct. But the "interests of the service and the care given to patients" require that should not be so.

Concern has been brought to a head by the publicity over the case of Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician suspended from almost a London hospital for almost a year, where the cost to the health authority is estimated to be approaching £100,000, with Mrs Savage's costs in the same region.

If she is cleared her suspension will have lasted 15 months.

But Trent's memorandum says it has eight serious disciplinary cases pending at any one time, employing two solicitors virtually full time.

In one case a consultant has been suspended for four years at a cost of more than £200,000 as the disciplinary procedure and appeals have gone through.

In another, involving fraud, costs are running at more than £100,000 with the formal inquiry yet to take place two years after the doctor was suspended.

If the inquiry goes ahead "the resource and time implications will be hard to accept".

In North East Thames, a consultant paediatrician has been suspended for three years, with threat of an inquiry suit to be held, and a haematologist has been suspended for over more than four years.

Trent says the burden of proof of the procedure demands is "very high" and suffers from "excessive legalism" yet witnesses cannot be compelled to attend and the whole procedure, set up in 1961, is "out of step with modern employment law".

A more simple and effective procedure is needed, the Trent document says, in the interests of doctors, patients and health authorities.



Mr Matthew Carrington, Conservative candidate in the Fulham by-election, and Mr Jeffrey Archer, vice-chairman of the party, talking to Mr Dinesh Patel, a local shopkeeper, and his daughter, Bina. Mr Patel says he will vote Tory.

Fulham by-election

Vision of SDP bandwagon

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The first glimpse of the SDP bandwagon getting under way in the Fulham by-election emerged yesterday as the party willingly admitted it is stuck in third place behind Labour and the Conservatives.

SDP officials produced their first canvassing returns for the south-west London constituency which confirmed the late opinion poll predictions, showing Labour comfortably in the lead, Conservatives second, and Mr Roger Liddle, the SDP candidate, trailing last.

The SDP figures, based on talking to 18 per cent of the electorate, disclose that 16.5 per cent will definitely vote SDP, 21 per cent will certainly

Drop in number of university graduates

The number of graduates who have gained first degrees from British universities has fallen for the first time since the early 1960s, according to figures published yesterday by the University Grants Committee.

At the same time the 30 polytechnics are taking more and more students. Figures compiled by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics show a 20 per cent rise in the number of full-time and sandwich students in 1985-86 compared with 1981-82.

The drop in university numbers marks the end of 20 years' continuous expansion in the university system, reflecting the reduction in student numbers which was forced upon the universities in 1981 by government cuts.

The figures show that 75,967 university students successfully completed undergraduate courses and 72,019 were awarded first degrees (95 per cent), a 1.5 per cent drop on the previous year.

There was a sharp rise in the number of part-time university undergraduates, 12 per cent higher than in 1983-84, and 53 per cent higher than in 1975-80. Most part-time students are women. The proportion of full-time women undergraduates has also increased slightly, to 42 per cent.

There was an increase of 3 per cent in the number of postgraduate students, and the proportion of overseas students on postgraduate courses increased by more than 5 per cent. They now represent more than one third of the postgraduate population.

Numbers of university staff paid from general funds fell by about 500 to 29,600, but by about 1,000 in the numbers of academic staff who were funded from sources outside the university system.

The polytechnic figures, compiled by the directors' committee from Department of Education and Science statistics, show that student numbers on full-time and sandwich courses rose to 157,877 this year from 131,001 in 1981-82.

Shorts win stake in airliner project

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Short Brothers, the Belfast-based aerospace company, is to take a big stake in the next generation of short-haul airliners being developed by Boeing of the United States, a move that could create more than 1,000 jobs in Northern Ireland.

The agreement, announced yesterday, could give state-owned Shorts up to 5 per cent of the work on the aircraft, which will probably be called the 737.

It is due to be launched in 1992 as a direct competitor to the A320, the 150-seat jet being produced by the European consortium of Airbus Industrie in which the United Kingdom has a 28 per cent share.

A memorandum of understanding signed in London by Boeing and Shorts could give the Belfast company a considerable slice of the work on the aircraft.

Shorts already makes rudders for the Boeing 737, wing flap assemblies for the 757 and landing gear doors for the 747, and with the additional work, the total value of Boeing contracts in Belfast could rise to £380 million by the end of the century.

Shorts' chairman, Sir Philip Foreman, said the deal with Boeing gave his company "a ticket into the 21st century", and was potentially the most significant it had struck with Boeing.

British Aerospace has won a £10 million order from the Ministry of Defence for an advanced version of the Rapier anti-aircraft missile system. Future Rapier units will be fitted with infra-red trackers for night use and improvements have been made in the system's ability to avoid jamming by enemy signals.

MPs press for assault meeting

By Stephen Goodwin, Political Staff

Manchester city councillors and MPs are seeking an urgent meeting with the Home Secretary to press for a speedy conclusion to an inquiry into claims by two students that they have been intimidated and assaulted by plainclothes police officers.

One of the students, Steven Shaw, aged 24, spoke yesterday of nightmares in which he sees the faces of two officers he says beat him up in a Manchester street last February.

Harassment alleged by the two includes threats, surveillance, assault and burglary spread over a year. Both were involved in the demonstration against the visit of Mr Leon Brittan, then Home Secretary, to Manchester University.

The Police Complaints Authority, helped by officers from Avon and Somerset police, is investigating.

In October 1985 an independent inquiry panel set up by the council concluded there had been a misuse of a police riot squad.

The second student involved, Sarah Hollis, aged 22, has recently fallen silent, reportedly after an offer made over the telephone.

Angel had many injuries

John Mikkleson, the Hell's Angel who died in police custody after inhaling his own vomit, had a large number of injuries to different parts of his body, a pathologist said in an inquest into his death yesterday.

Dr Stephen Cordner told the inquest in Hammersmith that he had cuts and bruises to his face, neck, chest, pelvis, arms, back and buttocks.

Mr Mikkleson, aged 34, of Salters Road, North Kensington, west London, died after he was arrested by police questioning several men about possession of a car in Feltham, west London.

Dr Cordner said that Mr Mikkleson's death was "an extremely complicated case". He was intoxicated with alcohol, and had been involved in a fight.

Dr Cordner said the injuries themselves did not indicate excessive force.

The inquest continues today.

Maxwell printers return

By Ronald Faux

Printers on the *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail* in Glasgow agreed yesterday to return to work according to the deal reached in London between Sogat '82 and the management of Mirror Group Newspapers in London, but refused to cross picket lines manned by the 220 dismissed members of the National Union of Journalists of the two papers.

The journalists were dismissed by Mr Robert Maxwell the publisher, after striking in protest at redundancy plans. Neither newspaper has appeared for two weeks.

The decision by the printers came last night as a relief to the journalists who feared that a return to work by Sogat members would isolate them and allow Mr Maxwell to produce the *Daily Record*, which has the biggest newspaper circulation in Scotland, by facsimile from Manchester.

Earlier the contempt action against Sogat '82 in the High Court in London was adjourned to await the decision of the meeting in Glasgow of 700 printworkers. Mr Christopher Parr, QC, for Mirror Group Newspapers, told Mr Justice Potter that the key aspect of the deal reached over the weekend between the group and the unions was the declaration by Sogat '82 that it was no part of its function to influence the editorial conduct of the paper.

In return Mr Maxwell had withdrawn dismissal notices and the union had agreed to bear the legal costs of bringing the contempt action.

Last night management was considering its next move.

Mr Maxwell has invited any journalists who wish to return to work to apply for their jobs but the NUJ has rejected the offer.

Preparing for a life on the run

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The make-up artists and hairdressers who have been at work providing a new disguise for the elfin features of Provisional IRA terrorist suspect, Evelyn Glenholmes, are likely to be in one of any number of "safe" houses in the South provided by Provisional sympathizers. It is likely that efforts will be made to provide Miss Glenholmes with a new identity and passport enabling her to leave the Republic if necessary.

However, she has remained in the Republic since it became known in November, 1984, that warrants for her extradition had been issued until her arrest earlier this month.

Born Mary Elizabeth Evelyn Glenholmes, she now uses the Irish name Eibhlin. Since being released from custody in the North in 1983 she has been living in the South.

Miss Glenholmes was charged with being a member of the women's branch of the Provisional IRA in 1983. But she was released and the charges dropped when an informer retracted his evidence.

After being tipped off in November, 1984, that the British were seeking her extradition she disappeared but was eventually traced to a housing estate in Tallaght, south Dublin, where she was arrested this month.

Director ready to face controversy

By Peter Evans

Sir Thomas Hetherington QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, is used to controversy. The latest storm, over the legal blunder which freed Evelyn Glenholmes, is far from the first, though it is possibly the most serious.

Only in November, Mr Brian Sedgemoor, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, told Sir Michael Havers QC, the Attorney General, there was a desperate need for the DPP to put his house in order over an alleged fraud case.

"If he will not or cannot do that then you should replace him." The power to sack a DPP lies with the Attorney General, but if it ever came to removal from Crown services, it is represented a shift of opinion in the Government. Previously it had maintained that law officers should be outside the committee's remit.

Then and throughout his stay in office he has stuck to two main principles on which he bases the decision to prosecute. "We have to be satisfied that there is a reasonable prospect of a conviction".

Sir Thomas, aged 59, has not only argued about issues arising in the day to day running of his job, which pays £60,000 a year, but has joined in debate about subjects which could affect his office.

Fraud trials are an example. In an interview with *The Times* Sir Thomas said complicated fraud cases before juries could be streamlined by creating a group of specialist judges.



Sir Thomas Hetherington, who is used to trouble

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Spanish pact

The new extradition treaty between Britain and Spain was ratified yesterday, allowing Britain to seek the extradition of fugitives who enter or re-enter Spain from July 1.

Unions criticize Wapping police

Print union leaders met Labour MPs yesterday to complain about police tactics outside News International's Wapping plant in east London yesterday.

Among 50 people arrested outside the plant last Saturday night was Mr Tony Dubbins, the general secretary of the National Graphical Association, who has formally complained to the police about their behaviour at Wapping. He has been charged with obstructing the highway.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that all official complaints would be investigated.

Three members of the Sogat '82 print union involved in an attack on a van delivering The Sun and The Times in south-east London were each fined £500 yesterday at Camberwell magistrates' court.

Each was ordered to pay £200 compensation for damage caused, and one was fined a further £120 and disqualified for a year for driving with excess alcohol.

Workers rush for shipyard shares

Almost three-quarters of the workforce at the Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside, are thought to have taken up the offer to buy shares in the company.

The response has exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

Applications for shares in the newly-privatized VSEL consortium - formed by Cammell Laird and Vickers at Barrow - closed at midday yesterday. Lloyds Merchant Bank expects to make an announcement on the uptake tomorrow.

However, Cammell Laird suggested yesterday that more than 70 per cent of the 1,350 workers had applied for shares.

The success of the share sales marks a turnaround in the fortunes of Cammell Laird, which in 1984 had to shed more than 2,000 workers and had an empty order book.

The yard is at present building a frigate, HMS Campbelltown, and has won an order from the Ministry of Defence for three conventional submarines which will secure the future of the yard into the 1990s and provide up to 500 new jobs.

Swan Hunter, the newly-privatized shipbuilding company, "faces destruction" if a £240 million Ministry of Defence contract is placed with the state-owned Harland and Wolff yard, MPs were told yesterday.

The company sent letters to 40 MPs with defence interests, stating that they are "fighting for our lives" in an attempt to stop the order for two auxiliary oil replenishment ships (AORs) being placed with Harland and Wolff.

QC calls for fraud trials without jury

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, the eminent QC, last night broke ranks with the rest of his profession and came down in favour of abolishing juries in complex fraud trials as recommended in the Roskill report on fraud.

He said that jury trial was not sacrosanct and must be "subjected to the process of reasoned debate".

Where cases have "political" overtones, there was a case "that the legal institution be designed to stand between the individual and the state," he told Alliance lawyers in London.

In a second controversial statement, Mr Blom-Cooper said there was a case to consider a national police force and called for the Alliance to commit itself to setting up a royal commission on the police within a year of an election.

That produces a "knee jerk" response in liberally-minded people.

Two Britons share chess contest lead

British players are doing well in the GLC Chess Challenge at the Great Eastern Hotel (Harry Golombek writes).

After 10 rounds, Glenn Flear, the Leicester international master who has won his adjourned game from round 8 against Speelman, leads with Murray Chandler, another British grandmaster, at 7 points.

Next is Nigel Short, aged 20, who is a candidate for the next World Championship cycle.

Short beat Jonathan Mettel, the Cambridge mathematician, in their round 10 game, and came out a half point behind the leaders with Flear requires only half a point out of his remaining three games to acquire his first grandmaster norm.

Standings after Round 10: Chandler, Flear, 7; Short, 6; Speelman, 5; Mettel, 4; Murray, 3; Golombek, 2.

Tragedy as tree falls on school

Continued from page 1

Every train in the London-Midland region was delayed in the morning as broken cables and fallen trees disrupted rail traffic. The power was switched off on the main line near Milton Keynes as a precaution after a cable broke. Passengers on a Euston-Birmingham express and two local trains were transferred to buses as engineers worked to restore the lines and shift the trains.

Snowploughs were sent out to clear railway lines in Cumbria and southern Scotland. "It is our worst day for 20 years", a Midland Region spokesman said.

Many thousands of homes were without electricity for part of the day as the gales or snow brought down power lines. About 75,000 people in the Barrow-in-Furness area were urged to boil drinking water after a power cut knocked out the local water chlorination plant.

The police station at Barnard Castle, County Durham, provided emergency rations for a number of motorists who were stranded as snow cut off the town and left it without electricity.

Charnel crossings and ferry services to the Isles of Wight and Man were badly disrupted by storms and smaller ships took refuge in southern and western ports after repeated gale warnings.

Correction

Contrary to a reference in *The Times* of March 10, the City of London Corporation is an independently-elected authority free of any political parties.

By the way, the Times' reference to the City of London Corporation as an independently-elected authority is incorrect. The Corporation is a body of 25 members, 12 of whom are elected by the City's 100,000 ratepayers, and 13 are appointed by the City Council.

Action demand on drinking as yearly deaths rise to 25,000

By Thomson Practice, Science Correspondent

More than 25,000 people a year are dying in Britain as a direct result of alcohol abuse, and the nation is now drinking twice as much liquor as in the 1950s, health experts say in a report published today.

The report, *Agenda for Action on Alcohol*, calls for a campaign to cut drink consumption by 30 to 40 per cent through higher taxes, a ban on advertising and tougher restrictions on licensed premises.

Britons are spending more than £35 million a day on alcohol, but the annual bill to the country of alcohol abuse has been estimated at £1,680 million in the cost of sickness, absence, hospital treatment, unemployment and premature death.

The catalogue of harm caused by excessive drinking is both "excessive and dramatic", the report by the Action on Alcohol Abuse organization says.

One in three drivers involved in road accidents, which cause thousands of deaths and injuries every year, is over the legal limit. Half of those convicted for murder killed while drunk, and drinking is also linked with 52 per cent of deaths from fire, one third of all domestic accidents, and 30 per cent of drownings.

The organization, supported by the British Medical Association, the Health Education Council and other groups, criticized Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for not raising taxes on spirits, wines and beers in last week's Budget.

Mr Don Steele, director of AAA, said: "The Chancellor has, in effect, reduced the real price of alcohol and flows in the face of every available piece of evidence which shows that lower prices mean higher consumption and more problems."

He added: "The current hysteria on 'hard' drug abuse is drawing attention away from the real killer. In 1984, at least 26,300 people died as a result of heavy drinking, but just 235 deaths resulted from drug abuse."

Since 1950 the price of drink has fallen by almost 50 per cent in real terms, the report says. The Exchequer would receive £6 billion from taxes on alcohol in the current year, and any moves which risked reducing that income were likely to be opposed.

The fact that the English football team may be going to Mexico sponsored by the Courage brewery might well say something about us as a nation," the report says.

An *Agenda for Action on Alcohol* (AAA, Livingston House, 11 Charter Street, London SW1 9DL).

Ministers named for crime fight

A high-level group of ministers and officials has been set up to develop the Government's crime prevention strategy, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

In a Commons written reply to Mr Peter Thomas, Conservative MP for Hendon South, Mr Hurd said the group would be headed by Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State at the Home Office, who has special responsibility for crime prevention.

Mr Hurd said: "Much work is already in hand following the crime prevention strategy announced by the Prime Minister in January. But it is important that the momentum is not lost."

The Home Office said the success of any initiative on crime prevention depended on public support.

NUT calls for an end to pay constraint

The National Union of Teachers yesterday called on the Government to commit itself to funding any agreement from current negotiations on pay and conditions.

It said in its opening submission to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service panel supervising the long-term talks that there was "no possibility" of a deal on salary, conditions or teacher appraisal against a background of predetermined financial constraints.

This amounted to a demand that Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, should increase the £1.25 billion he has already said is available, provided an acceptable deal on conditions is reached.

Anger over proposal for tree-ringed town

A secluded circle of pine forest in north Hampshire has been chosen as a screen for the second complete new town planned by Consortium Developments in countryside near London.

Bramhill Plantation near the Berkshire border was named yesterday as the site for the second town in a series of five.

The site of the third is to be named in the summer. The plantation is in the area covered by the hung Hart district council. Mr David Carrow, independent vice-chairman of the Hart housing committee, said yesterday: "At the moment folk just want to cover our countryside with houses."

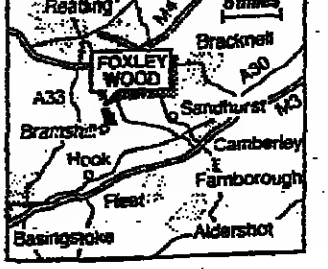
The second town, to be called Foxley Wood after a fourteenth-century landowner

in the area, is meant to be almost identical in shape, cost and purpose to Tillingham Hall in Essex. An appeal by Consortium Developments against the refusal of councils to allow building at Tillingham Hall is to reopen today.

The five are all meant to be much smaller than the new towns of the post-war years such as Slough and Crawley. Other differences are that the five are all to be built in countryside instead of being grafted onto existing settlements, and are all to be built by private companies instead of public development corporations.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England condemned the plan to build a £400 million town on the 700 acres of clay workings encircled by the plantation. Mr Richard Bate, senior planner with the council, said: "The housebuilders are stoking up uncertainty, speculation and worry."

Lord Northfield of Telford, chairman of Consortium Developments, said yesterday that the plantation was an ideal building site in an area where new building was accepted as inevitable to the end of the century.



Husak follows Soviet lead and attacks 'inertia' in party

From Roger Boyes, Prague

Mr Gustav Husak, the Czechoslovak leader, yesterday took on board some of the lessons of the new Soviet leadership and criticized the "inertia" and high-handedness of some Communist officials. But although his criticism at the party congress was sharp, it fell far short of Mr Gorbachev's shake-up of the Soviet party, government and economy.

This is the first party congress in Eastern Europe since the Moscow session and the question is: will the ripples of change spread throughout the Soviet bloc? Although Mr Husak, who spoke for more than three hours, called upon the delegates to start an "open and efficient" discussion, the congress looked set to be a rather calm, understated event. The word "reform" was not mentioned once.

Rather, he justified the economic and political lines pursued since the Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968 on the grounds that they had maintained stability and a high

standard of living in the country. The stagnation of the Czechoslovak economy was partly due to "negative influences" from the rest of the world and partly to an inefficient use of resources. "The development we have achieved since the early 1970s is a telling answer to all the anti-socialist and revisionist forces who foretold that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic would never extricate itself from the crisis of the late 1960s."

The answer to Prague's problems, Mr Husak said, was to "intensify" the economy: that is to deploy resources more intelligently. There was also no question of political liberalization.

In a clear message to Czechoslovakia's dissident opposition, he said: "We shall allow no one to violate our laws, to undermine our political system, our socialist order, whatever lofty phrases he might use about freedom, democracy and the so-called struggle for human rights."

But the Gorbachev lesson means that Moscow's allies have to inject more self-

criticism into their public gatherings. And so the 73-year-old Mr Husak, stumbling only occasionally, spoke of "high-handedness and abuse of trust" by some Communist Party officials.

There was no place in the office of the party for such attitudes, he said, earning one of the longest rounds of applause in the congress so far. Over the past few years, he said, one-third of Communist Party secretaries and 40 per cent of regional party chiefs had lost their jobs.

But while those figures sound like a purge, they merely represent for the most part a natural turnover of officials. It remains to be seen whether this congress will produce really barbed criticism from the rank and file delegates and whether this criticism leads to important personnel changes.

Certainly, big changes in the complexion of the party are planned — a much younger, more technocratic Central Committee is expected — but the main policy line of stepped-by-step change will be maintained.

Gorbachov's campaign for openness

Publishing chief calls on press to take risks and upset the powerful

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A leading Soviet journalist, recently promoted by Mr Gorbachov, has delivered a swinging attack on the unrealistic picture of life in the Soviet Union painted by the state-controlled press, and has called on Soviet journalists to be more critical.

In an outspoken interview with the magazine of the powerful Soviet Journalists' Union, Mr Mikhail Nenashv, newly-appointed chief of the country's vast publishing industry, accused the Soviet press of laxity in informing both the party and public about "difficulties, blunders and mistakes."

Mr Nenashv, until last month editor of *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, the daily paper in the vanguard of Mr Gorbachov's campaign for greater "openness", urged his fellow journalists, many of whom have long been frustrated by the severe restrictions imposed on them, to be willing to take risks and upset those in power.

His clarion call for a new type of Soviet journalism was the most explicit and far-reaching of any of the recent internal critiques of the media, which are seen by Mr Gorbachov as a vital ally in his efforts to reform the ramshackle and often corrupt administration.

"Socialism is no kingdom of heaven, it is an earthly phenomenon with its own problems, difficulties and illnesses, mostly natural growing pains," Mr Nenashv said.

inside the Soviet Union. "In our newspaper practice, we presented an over-simplified picture of reality, which was far from real," he explained, with a degree of self-criticism which until recently would have been remarkable in any official publication here. "How could our work be effective if people were reading one thing and often seeing a completely different reality around them?"

The Soviet Union has a number of nuclear weapons it will have to test over the next months if it is to keep abreast of America's defence modernization programme, according to Western analysts (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Moscow is expected to end its self-imposed nuclear moratorium since the US has clearly demonstrated with its Nevada explosion at the weekend that it has no intention of taking up Mr Gorbachov's offer for a joint test freeze.

The officials openly said to the reporter: "Behind us stand the Moscow party and Government." They were sure that... at some stage someone high up would say that it was not necessary to give out such information about Moscow. But we had received such convincing facts that it was impossible to doubt them, and we immediately published them in the newspaper.

Muscovite with a mission

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Katerina Lycheva, aged 11, a student at Special School Number 4 in Moscow, is on a peace mission to the United States, telling American children that her country desires only harmony with its fellow superpower.

Her two-week tour, which began in Chicago on Friday, is reminiscent of the trip by Samantha Smith, the Maine schoolgirl who went to the Soviet Union in 1983 at the invitation of Yuri Andropov, the late Soviet leader.

But the ailing Andropov disappointed Samantha by not receiving her. She was killed last August when a light plane in which she was travelling crashed near her home.

Katya, as Katerina is known to her friends, won the trip to America after suggesting that her school set up a memorial museum to Samantha. Her trip includes New York, Washington, Houston and Los Angeles.

In Chicago she joined in lessons at LaSalle Language Academy and visited Mayor Harold Washington. He gave her a mascot of the Chicago Bears, this year's football champions.



Katerina Lycheva, the young Soviet "peacemaker", with an American companion at New York's La Guardia airport.

Sailors freeze to death on liferaft

Stockholm — Six Finnish sailors who had abandoned their ship froze to death on a liferaft during a severe storm in the Baltic Sea (Christopher Mosey writes).

They left the ship, the merchant vessel *Karelia*, late on Sunday when its cargo of cars and lorries broke loose. It later ran aground on the island of Gotiska Sandön.

Huge waves, high winds, sub-zero temperatures and poor visibility because of snow hindered rescue efforts, but a Swedish Navy helicopter managed to winch 11 men from the liferaft and fly them to hospital in Visby, on the island of Gotland.

Two were dead on arrival. The remaining five were picked up by a West German vessel that answered the *Karelia's* distress call, but four of them were dead. All the survivors are out of danger.

In the Gulf of Bothnia, further north, the Finnish ferry *Wasa Express*, with more than a thousand passengers on board, gave up attempts to reach the Swedish port of Umea because of ice.

Despite the assistance of several icebreakers, the ferry was forced to put into the ice-free port of Skelleftehamn.

Five-hour delay on Sindona

From John Earle, Rome

Criticism is mounting over the way authorities have been handling the inquiry into the poisoning of jailed Sicilian financier Michele Sindona.

It has emerged that 5½ hours, in which evidence could have been tampered with, elapsed before the investigating magistrate was informed of Sindona's collapse and scaled the prison cell.

Experts began yesterday, four days after the event, to analyse the remains of coffee and milk served to Sindona for his fatal breakfast last Thursday.

The financier collapsed during breakfast and died 53 hours later.

The examination by toxicologists at Pavia University Institute of Forensic Medicine could provide a vital clue as to whether Sindona committed suicide or was murdered.

But, in any case, the question will still remain as to how the poison reached the financier, aged 65, who was last week sentenced to life imprisonment for ordering the murder of Giorgio Ambrosoli, the lawyer appointed to liquidate his collapsed Italian bank in 1974.

Sindona was isolated at Voghera Prison, in northern Italy, where all his meals were taken to his cell in specially sealed containers.

The mystery is assuming the proportions of that surrounding the death of Roberto Calvi found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge, London, in 1982.

The two were business associates and had dealings with the Vatican Bank under the chairmanship of Monsignor Paul Marcinkus, the American archbishop still at its head.

Waldheim hits back

Vienna (Reuters) — Sir Simon Wiesenthal, the Nazi hunter, yesterday called on Yugoslavia to respond to charges that Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General, was listed as a suspected Nazi war criminal, wanted by Yugoslavia for complicity in murder.

Speaking to journalists at the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, which he heads, Mr Wiesenthal said the listing raised to a new level the controversy around Dr Waldheim, who is seeking the Austrian presidency.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Syria: Abd al-Massih Kiryakos

By Caroline Moorhead

The headmaster of a secondary school and former soldier, Abd al-Massih Kiryakos, has been held for the past 10 years in al-Mezze military prison in Damascus, allegedly for belonging to the Baath Party National Command in Syria. Detained under the state of emergency laws in force since 1963, he has never been formally charged or tried. He is believed to be suffering from a kidney disease.

The Baath Party has been in power in Syria since 1963, and different factions have gained and lost power at different times. Relations between Syria and Iraq deteriorated sharply in 1975, and widespread arrests of those suspected of supporting the pro-Iraqi wing of the party followed. Several people remain in detention, without charge or trial.

Abd al-Massih Kiryakos is in his mid-forties. He is married and has an 11-year-old daughter, born after his arrest. His wife was not allowed to see him until 1980.

Mr al-Massih Kiryakos: no formal charge or trial.

Dr Waldheim yesterday rejected all allegations of a Nazi past and accused the World Jewish Congress, which says it has found his name in a 1948 US Army list of those sought by Yugoslavia, of waging a slander campaign against him.

Mr Wiesenthal said: "If this was the last list sent by the Yugoslav Government to the United Nations, then the question is why they never asked for his extradition."

He said it was possible that Dr Waldheim had been dropped from a later list because of lack of evidence

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Doubts as FDP chief flies to sign deal America baffled by Bonn squabble on Star Wars role

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Herr Martin Bangemann, West Germany's Economics Minister, left for Washington to sign agreements, probably tomorrow, on the Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars. But, among other things, remarks at the weekend by Herr Helmut Haussmann, general secretary of the Free Democrats, the party of which Herr Bangemann is leader, will cause the Americans to wonder whether the minister's signature commits Bonn to anything in particular, other than to the prospect of a few rich contracts for West German companies.

Germans might still have had about SDI. But Herr Haussmann seemed anxious to depict it as a brief, superficial exchange which could not possibly have done justice to so complex a subject. He said remaining doubts could be cleared up only by experts. Herr Kohl was yesterday reported to regard these remarks as "an incredible impertinence". So it is still not known how far Bonn is committed on SDI. This is entirely because of West German domestic politics and, in particular, because those politics revolve around a government which is a coalition.

Most West German politicians and parties would rather not have a policy on SDI - apart from Herr Franz Josef Strauss and his Bavarian Christian Social Union, who are for it. Most see it as passing American enthusiasm which will not survive Mr Reagan's presidency in anything like its original, inspirational form. They also see any Bonn commitment to it as damaging the overriding West German goal of improved relations with the Soviet Union, a goal to which Herr Kohl and the Christian Democrats (CDU) are committed, whatever they may have said in opposition. But they do not want West German companies to be left out of any contracts which SDI may offer. Over the months of controversy, the CDU, perhaps because of Herr Kohl's desire to keep on good terms with Mr Reagan, has become guardedly in favour of the principle of SDI. The FDP, apart from Herr Bangemann, has remained opposed - particularly its former leader, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, whose opposition makes reading Bonn's true intentions even more baffling for the Americans, since he is Foreign Minister.

Howe aid offer to Belgrade

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Britain has reaffirmed its willingness to help Yugoslavia through its economic crisis, now in its fifth year and showing no signs of abating. On a two-day visit here, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said Britain valued Yugoslavia's independence, non-alignment and domestic stability, and, in that context, was willing to help. Sir Geoffrey, speaking at a luncheon hosted by Mr Raif Dizdarevic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, said that Yugoslavia's economic stabilisation programme was in keeping with the world-wide trend towards economic liberalism. He said human rights were also a matter of special concern to Britain, especially as the follow-up meeting on the Helsinki Accord was due to be held in Vienna later this year. He indicated that trials of Yugoslavs for their opinions and the expulsion of British journalists was viewed with disapproval by Britain.

Greece sets terms for Cyprus pact

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece gave a warning yesterday that it would accept no settlement on Cyprus that did not meet three conditions: the withdrawal of all occupation forces from the island; international guarantees for Cyprus that would deny Turkey any unilateral intervention rights and the departure of more than 40,000 Turkish settlers now living in occupied Cyprus. The Greek conditions were spelled out in a statement just as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, wound up an official visit to Greece, and 48 hours before the arrival here of Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State. Both have been urging Mr Andreas Papandrou, the Greek Prime Minister, to support the forthcoming initiative on Cyprus of Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General. The official statement said these conditions were vital to safeguard the national security of Greece. "Any other solution," it added, "would vindicate the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and encourage Turkish expansionism, and would therefore be unacceptable to the Greek Government."

Filipinos picket US bases

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Filipino workers on strike at two United States military bases in the Philippines yesterday agreed to meet American negotiators to thrash out a new wage agreement. But they continued to man barricades. The four-day-old strike by 22,000 employees has had little impact on operations at Subic Bay naval base, Clark Air Force base and four smaller installations, although US servicemen have been forced to assume maintenance and catering duties. Entertainment facilities and PX stores have been closed. The picket lines and barricades of rocks and logs are forcing Subic Bay servicemen to enter and leave the sprawling base, 50 miles north-west of Manila, by boat. At least six pickets and seven servicemen were injured - some knifed - in scuffles on Friday night when Marines tried to break through the picket lines, local police and US authorities reported. The pickets have been peaceful at the Clark base, 50 miles north of Manila, and at the communications installations. A small group of left-wing demonstrators, who marched on Sunday night to the main gate to join the pickets against US imperialism, were forcibly turned away by the strikers.



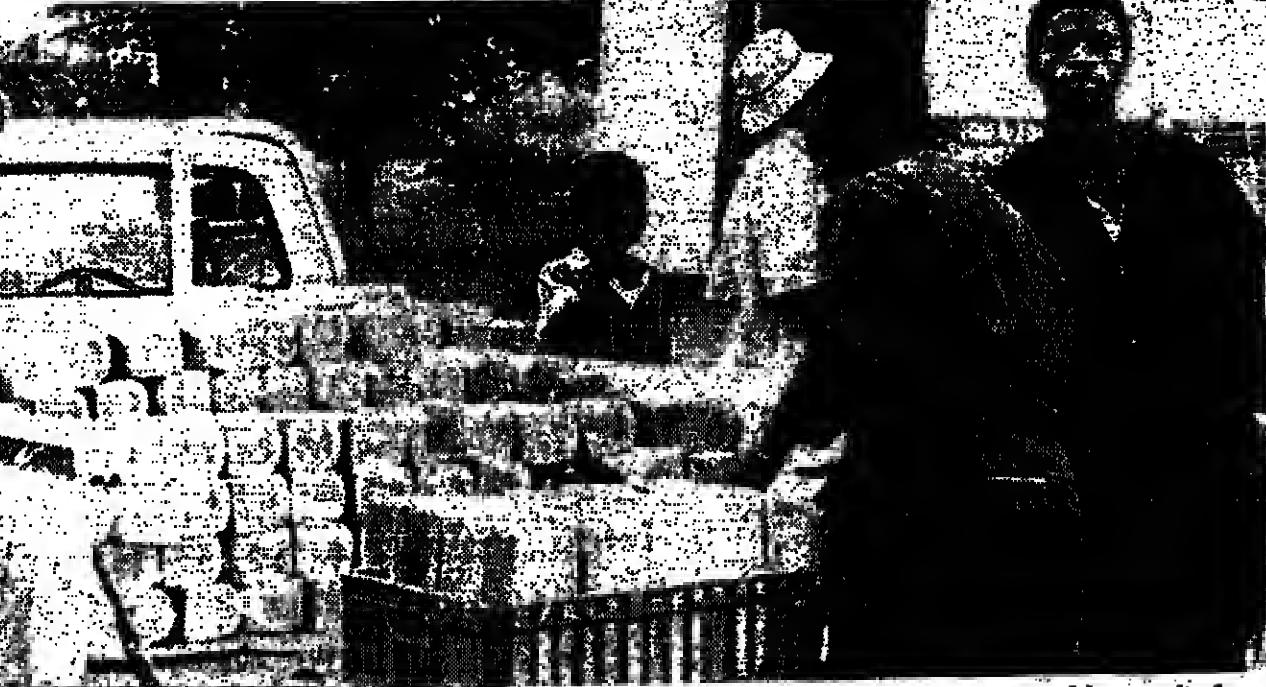
President Aquino with Leticia Ramos-Shahani (left), sister of the Philippine armed forces commander, General Fidel Ramos, after she was sworn in as Deputy Foreign Minister.

Naked worshippers lay bare dignity of police and press

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Each year devotees of the Hindu goddess, Renukadvi, gather on the banks of the Varada river in Karnataka, strip and parade naked for 2½ miles to an ancient temple. They have been doing it for centuries, but recently the festival has become the centre of maverick attention from the media and do-gooders anxious to reform the practice. At the weekend the festival went sour as thousands of pilgrims turned on their tormentors from the press, a group of social workers and the police, forcibly stripped them and paraded them through the dusty village streets. All through the week devotees had been pouring into the tiny village of Chandragatti in preparation for the three-day festival. They camped round the hullock carts that had brought them to the riverside. Early in the morning thousands of them entered the river for the dip and plunge that cleanses both body and soul.

Then a middle-aged woman without a stitch on finally broke through the social workers' cordon and made for the temple, at which point the fanatics took over and attacked all those whom they thought were opposed to nude worship. The first to be attacked were the press photographers, then the crowd turned on the social workers and the police, ostensibly there to keep order. They were stripped and beaten and forced to walk naked to the temple. Unhappiest of all were some policemen, who had their uniforms ripped off, and who were put on the bonnet of a Jeep and then driven around the village, sobbing with humiliation. Next day the state Home Minister, Mr B. Rachaiiah, congratulated the police for their self-control in not lathi-charging nor opening fire on the crowd. "I am not giving a political colour to the violent incidents," he said, claiming that the event was staged to discredit the Karnataka government.



Shopkeepers from Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, collecting their goods from delivery vehicles stopped by security forces outside the township's main entrance because of an indefinite boycott of white-owned businesses by black consumers.

Neglect kills crash victims

Johannesburg - People injured in road accidents in some parts of South Africa have a better chance of surviving if the ambulance fails to turn up (Ray Kennedy writes).

The Automobile Association of South Africa says the vast majority of those who die as a result of traffic accidents are alive after the impact. It says the lack of training and equipment is the biggest killer. It quotes one traffic officer as saying: "I called for an ambulance at 8.30am. By the time it arrived at 11.0am, the woman had died. I used a newspaper to stop the bleeding - it's all I had." Treatment denied: A young Coloured woman paralysed from the neck down in a road accident is being denied access to the spinal unit of Pretoria's Verwoerd Hospital - named after Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid because it is reserved for whites.

Three die as work boycott sweeps black townships

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Three blacks were reported to have been killed yesterday as massive work stoppages began in townships south-east of here and a consumer boycott was launched in Pretoria. Their deaths brought the number of people killed in political violence in the past six days to at least 23. Residents in Ratanda township, near Heidelberg, south-east of Johannesburg, said two people who were trying to ignore a two-day work boycott call were killed when they were caught in police crossfire. A third man had been killed overnight in a township shepherded by "vigilantes," the residents said. The work boycott has been called over the killing of a woman by police last week and the detention of two civic leaders. Work stoppages were also in force in six other townships, including Sharpville, over the jailing of participants in a rent boycott.

In Pretoria, an indefinite black consumer boycott of white-owned businesses was launched yesterday. Leaflets said it was in protest against the refusal to withdraw troops from the townships; reduce rents; reinstate sacked workers who took part in boycotts; and against the banning of the Council of South African Students. Meanwhile, a Roman Catholic convent was attacked with petrol bombs early yesterday in Kagiso township, near Krugersdorp, which has been the target of recent raids by white vigilantes. One of the three petrol bombs landed in a room where three nuns were sleeping, but none was hurt. Several nuns are actively involved in anti-government protests, including Sister Bernard Ncube, who has been detained on many occasions. The charred body of a black policeman was discovered yesterday near Denilton, in the eastern Transvaal KwaNdebele homeland. Representatives of civil rights groups presented a petition in Cape Town yesterday to Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, and Mr Kobie Le Grange, the Minister of Justice, protesting against "the assault, intimidation and harassment" of black children on a countrywide basis by the security forces.

Strains appear in French coalition

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The first strains within the new "government of coalition" have arisen from a clash between the Socialist President and his right-wing Prime Minister, as was expected, but from rivalry within the ranks of the coalition itself. M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, a former president, and M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, a former Gaullist prime minister, are said to be rivals for the presidency of the National Assembly even though both deny seeking the post for themselves. It is reported that both are being actively supported by their respective parties, the centre-right UDF and the Gaullist RPR, and have turned down ministerial posts in the new government.

Corsica bomb blasts

Paris - Three bombs destroyed the restaurant and kitchen of a tourist complex at Porticchio in southern Corsica (Susan MacDonald writes).

Four German holiday-makers and a staff member and his family were held hostage for several hours by four armed and masked men prior to the explosion on Saturday night. No one was injured in the bombing. It was the first time this designation of a UDF member as president of the National Assembly. But like M Chaban-Delmas, who like M Giscard d'Estaing was once considered a possible candidate for the prime minister's post, said: "I know the work well. I've already done it for 12 or 13 years". But he was quick to add: "I'm not seeking a post. I've already had many in my life." Meanwhile, M Giscard d'Estaing has been calling for "a striking demonstration of the union of the right by the right's candidate as he had the necessary experience."

Fatal rocket

Valencia (AFP) - A rocket in a fireworks display at Sueca, eastern Spain, exploded among spectators instead of soaring skywards, killing a 38-year-old man and injuring 29 people, eight seriously.

Killer snow

Moscow (Reuters) - A man aged 44 was killed when an avalanche hit the central Norwegian village of Fokkstua, burying him and four companions, who were unhurt.

Joint exercise

St George's (Reuters) - Grenada is to take part with the United States and some Caribbean countries in a joint security exercise later this month.

Crime drive

Taipei (Reuters) - The Taiwan Government has ordered more than 110,000 of the island's 340,000 companies to close down in an effort to crack down on commercial crime.

Wine toll

Lecco, Italy (Reuters) - The toll of victims poisoned by wine adulterated with methyl alcohol has risen to six, with the death of a 48-year-old man.

Fanatics clash

Lagos (Reuters) - Nine people have been injured during clashes in the central town of Ilorin between Christians and Muslim fanatics, sparked off when a Palm Sunday procession of Christians passed through a Muslim area.

Island threat

Saint-Denis (Reuters) - The Fournaise volcano on the Réunion Indian Ocean island of Réunion belched streams of boiling lava as officials worked to evacuate threatened villages.

Haiti request

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) - Haiti has requested the extradition of the former Port-au-Prince police chief, Mr Albert Pierre, who fled to Brazil after the downfall of President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Wrong body

Bonn (Reuters) - Undertakers who mistakenly buried a one-legged tramp in a millionaire's coffin, while the rightful owner lay on a mortuary slab for a week, filed suit in a Bonn court to recover costs and pin the blame elsewhere.

Street blitz

Cairo (Reuters) - A retired Egyptian police general opened indiscriminate fire on pedestrians from his balcony, wounding two passers-by before police shot him dead.

Rebels jailed

Jakarta (Reuters) - Two Muslim extremists were jailed for 20 years in Malang, Java, for bombing a Roman Catholic church, a Buddhist temple and a tourist bus, in which seven people were killed.

UK-Spain extradition deal seals off crime bolt-hole

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

From July 1 no one committing a crime in Britain will be able to think of Spain as a bolt-hole, or vice versa. That is the firm intention of the two Governments, which signed the instrument of ratification of a new extradition treaty here yesterday. A statutory period must elapse before it comes into effect this summer. "Today's signing ends a long period in which the Governments of Spain and Britain were unable to collaborate on the handling over of wanted criminals," Señor Fernando Ledesma, the Spanish Justice Minister, said after the ratification document was signed by Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox, the British Ambassador in Madrid, and Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Spanish Foreign Minister. The treaty closes an eight year gap since the 1878 extradition treaty was allowed to lapse by the Franco regime, which argued that British court procedures made it virtually impossible to secure the delivery of wanted Spaniards. Señor Ledesma, who signed the treaty in London last July with Mr Leon Brittan, then Home Secretary, looked forward yesterday to a new phase marked by a willingness on both sides to co-operate and negotiate on any difficulties. He promised that Spanish officials would see to it that the new arrangements functioned satisfactorily. The treaty must first be ratified by each country's Parliament. It was held up for several weeks in the Spanish Senate by pressure of other legislation. It applies to crimes liable to prison sentences of more than one year, including terrorism and financial crime. Spanish police will be able to hold those wanted by Britain for up to 40 days. The treaty is not retroactive, however, and cannot affect the 100 or so Britons reportedly living on the Costa del Sol and other Spanish resorts who are wanted for murder and armed robbery in Britain, including the £25 million Heathrow airport robbery of 1983. A dozen wanted men living in southern Spain have been served with expulsion orders under the new Aliens Law, but there have been bureaucratic delays and the orders can still be challenged in the Spanish courts. Señor José Barrionuevo, the Interior Minister, insisted recently that Spain was determined "to make life difficult" for British criminals. When asked about Scotland Yard complaints that some of those wanted had been able to disappear, he said that both British and Spanish police sometimes lost trace of wanted men. Spain does not have enough police to keep an effective watch. Even if Madrid expels a Briton he cannot be forced to return home and can choose a retreat further from the attentions of the British press.

Arthit told to retire in August

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The Thai Government yesterday ignored strident demands from the Army and refused to extend the military service of General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the Army Commander-in-Chief. The Thai Prime Minister, General Prem Tinsulanonda, said the Government could not run the country if it was afraid of the military. He said it would go against the principles of fairness and correctness to extend General Arthit's service for a second term. He would therefore have to retire at the end of August on reaching the age of 61. He could then serve the nation in some other capacity. The Army's reaction was being awaited with some uneasiness but generally it was believed in Bangkok that the Government would prevail. Reports of preparations for an Army rebellion against the Government swept Bangkok before and after yesterday's announcement but there was no sign of military activity in the capital. Last week two of the most senior generals warned the Government that people were restless and there might be trouble if General Arthit was forced to retire. The general himself, however, has said he will accept the Government's decision. General Arthit's service was extended last year because it was claimed he was needed to maintain national security and the unity of the armed forces. Similar reasons have been put forward this year. General Arthit's retirement is seen as a setback to his prospects of becoming the next prime minister.

Sabah finds peace formula

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia (Reuters) - Sabah's Muslim and Christian leaders have agreed to end the sectarian conflict in the state, the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said. The peace formula involved Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitjagan, a Christian, staying on as Chief Minister. Five people have been killed, 20 wounded and hundreds jailed in two weeks of rioting, bombings and arson by militant Muslims protesting against Datuk Pairin's alleged anti-Islamic stance.

Journalist told to go

Singapore (Reuters) - A Reuters correspondent, Miss Mariyam Odehmar, aged 31, has been asked to leave Singapore. She quoted a survivor of last week's hotel collapse as saying that a rescue worker had demanded money from a dying woman.

Freak storm

Tokyo (UPI) - A freak spring snowstorm with typhoon-force winds cut Tokyo's electrical power, caused a train crash, whipped up high seas and left at least 13 people dead and 330 others injured in accidents.

\$1m offer

Philadelphia (UPI) - The manufacturers of Contac, Teldin and Dietac have increased to nearly \$1 million their reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever planted rat poison in their drugs.

Debut death

Mariacabó (UPI) - A 20-year-old Venezuelan boxer, Gregorio Padrino, has died of head injuries received during his professional debut against flyweight Aquiles Guzmán, which he lost on points.

Fatal rocket

Valencia (AFP) - A rocket in a fireworks display at Sueca, eastern Spain, exploded among spectators instead of soaring skywards, killing a 38-year-old man and injuring 29 people, eight seriously.

Killer snow

Moscow (Reuters) - A man aged 44 was killed when an avalanche hit the central Norwegian village of Fokkstua, burying him and four companions, who were unhurt.

Joint exercise

St George's (Reuters) - Grenada is to take part with the United States and some Caribbean countries in a joint security exercise later this month.

Crime drive

Taipei (Reuters) - The Taiwan Government has ordered more than 110,000 of the island's 340,000 companies to close down in an effort to crack down on commercial crime.

Wine toll

Lecco, Italy (Reuters) - The toll of victims poisoned by wine adulterated with methyl alcohol has risen to six, with the death of a 48-year-old man.

Fanatics clash

Lagos (Reuters) - Nine people have been injured during clashes in the central town of Ilorin between Christians and Muslim fanatics, sparked off when a Palm Sunday procession of Christians passed through a Muslim area.

Island threat

Saint-Denis (Reuters) - The Fournaise volcano on the Réunion Indian Ocean island of Réunion belched streams of boiling lava as officials worked to evacuate threatened villages.

Haiti request

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) - Haiti has requested the extradition of the former Port-au-Prince police chief, Mr Albert Pierre, who fled to Brazil after the downfall of President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Wrong body

Bonn (Reuters) - Undertakers who mistakenly buried a one-legged tramp in a millionaire's coffin, while the rightful owner lay on a mortuary slab for a week, filed suit in a Bonn court to recover costs and pin the blame elsewhere.

Street blitz

Cairo (Reuters) - A retired Egyptian police general opened indiscriminate fire on pedestrians from his balcony, wounding two passers-by before police shot him dead.

Rebels jailed

Jakarta (Reuters) - Two Muslim extremists were jailed for 20 years in Malang, Java, for bombing a Roman Catholic church, a Buddhist temple and a tourist bus, in which seven people were killed.

دليل في ايد

Court gives Britain three weeks to list spy book objections

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The British Government has been given three weeks to detail its objections to a manuscript by a former MI5 spy-catcher which it is trying to have suppressed in Australia.

The order by the New South Wales Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for an early hearing after more than six months of legal manoeuvring in the case in which Britain is seeking an injunction preventing the Australian branch of William Heinemann from publishing the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright.

Mr Wright, who retired from the security service 10 years ago and lives in Tasmania, caused a furore when he said during a Granada Television programme in 1984 that Sir Roger Hollis, his former boss, was a Soviet agent.

Britain launched its attempt to prevent publication in Australia of the Wright memoirs last year in an affidavit sworn by Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, in which it is alleged that the information Mr Wright has to impart is still bound by the Official Secrets Act.

In court here yesterday, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, appearing for Heinemann Australia and Mr Wright, said the defendants maintained that much of the material in the manuscript was already in the public domain and that there was nothing which could assist a hostile power.

What there was, he added, was information dealing with "crimes and inquiries", which should be published on the ground that it was in the public interest.

Fifteen of the 18 chapters of manuscript had already been forwarded to the authorities in Britain, with an affidavit sworn by Mr Wright to this effect. The defendants were willing to have the remaining three chapters delivered to lawyers acting for the Government and Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, but wanted the objections to the memoirs particularized.

Mr Turnbull said there were two main issues. The first was the question of contract, whether in fact the MI5 man had had a contract with the Crown at all. The second was confidentiality.

"If the plaintiffs will say what in the manuscript is confidential, we will say why we think it is not."

Mr William Caldwell, for the Government, requested more time for preparation of pleadings, in effect listing its objections, saying the stipulated time was "just not enough when the case involves overseas considerations".

But Mr Justice Powell said it was "time to get the matter into the marketplace". The case had its own problems, he added, such as whether Australia should be concerned itself with what was in the public interest in Britain.

He issued directives requiring the defendants to deliver the remainder of the manuscript by April 2, and requiring the Government to submit its objections by April 16. The hearing was adjourned until April 28.

In the Granada programme Mr Wright, who headed the Hollis inquiry and spent about 15 years investigating Soviet penetration of British intelligence, said he was "99 per cent certain" that Sir Roger had spied for the Russians.



Sikhs blocking a highway leading to Batala in Punjab. Two people were shot dead near the riot-scarred town yesterday.

India not bound by offer on Bhopal

Delhi (Reuter) — India is not bound by a proposed settlement with the US-based Union Carbide company that could give Bhopal poison gas disaster victims up to \$600 million (about £400 million), Mr Asoke Sen, the Indian Law Minister, said yesterday.

The minister did not categorically reject the settlement, announced by Union Carbide on Sunday, but he said it was not an agreement between the Indian Government and the company.

"The Indian Government will not recognize agreements arrived at by private parties," Mr Sen said, referring to a law passed last year giving his government the sole right to file suits against Union Carbide. India had agreed to be part of the class action suit, meaning that all the cases are heard as one, but insisted that it alone was the representative of all the claimants at hearings in New York.

The settlement announced by Union Carbide was agreed between the company and American lawyers representing plaintiffs from Bhopal.

More than 2,000 people died and 200,000 were injured in December 1984 when a cloud of methyl isocyanate gas leaked from a pesticide plant owned by Union Carbide's Indian subsidiary.

Tamil exiles ask Gandhi to intervene

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Sri Lankan Tamils in exile in India are openly urging Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to send his forces to the island to end what they call "the ongoing process of genocide".

The exiles claim that the only way genocide can be stopped "and a just and

lasting settlement achieved is by a humanitarian military intervention by India as the regional power".

They say the Sri Lankan Government's unilateral cessation of bombing by its armed forces would be meaningless unless its troops and auxiliaries were withdrawn or an Indian peace-keeping force sent to Sri Lanka.

Other Tamil exiles, notably Mr Appapillai Amirthalingam, the general secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front, have compared the situation in Sri Lanka to that in east Bengal during the struggle for liberation from the West Pakistan Government.

On that occasion, India intervened militarily on the side of the rebels.

But Mr Gandhi has ruled out the possibility of any armed invasion by his forces.

India, however, is using its diplomatic muscle to bring pressure against the Sri Lankan Government. The "good offices" efforts of India remain suspended and Western governments are being influenced to reduce contacts with the Sri Lankans.

Thousands face deportation

Selfish deal with Delhi suspected

From John Best, Toronto

Sikhs in Canada have been convulsed by a recent decision of the Conservative Government to resume deporting east Indians living here in defiance of Canadian law.

They see it as an example of stiffening official attitudes, and suspect that it was taken either in collusion with Indian authorities or to ingratiate the Canadian Government with Delhi, or both.

As many as 2,800 Indians, most of them Sikhs, face deportation as a result of the lifting of a moratorium in effect since the storming of the Golden Temple at Amritsar in June 1984.

Sikh spokesmen have maintained that in ending the moratorium, which was first imposed out of compassion for Indians who feared returning

Sikhs in Canada Part 2

to a Punjab homeland caught up in ethnic strife, Canada was condemning many Sikhs to interrogation by Indian police, to jail, torture and even death.

Most originally came to Canada to visit relatives, then applied for refugee status so that they could stay. Few qualified, however, the majority being unable to prove that they would be subjected to persecution if they returned to India.

Sikh leaders have made repeated representations to have the Canadian decision rescinded, but to no avail. They have hired a lawyer to pursue it further.

Sikhs appear convinced that the move was orchestrated by the Delhi Government and that Canada acquiesced for selfish economic reasons: closer trade and industrial development ties with India.

The announcement of the lifting of the moratorium came just weeks before a pre-Christmas trip to India by the Canadian Minister of External Affairs, Mr Joe Clark.

During that trip he went out of his way to show Canada's support for the Delhi regime in its fight against Sikh separatism and terrorism; he presented Indian authorities with the draft of an extradition treaty; and he pledged that Canadian intelligence would work with Indian services to counter Sikh extremism.

None of this, of course, was

lost on a Canadian ethnic and religious community grown increasingly sceptical, if not paranoid, about its acceptance by the rest of Canadian society.

Not long before, Sikhs had been distressed and infuriated by a Supreme Court ruling denying the right of Canadian National Railways yard workers to wear a turban instead of the hard hat required by CNR regulations. For Canadians generally, the case meant nothing. For Sikhs it was like a stab in the throat.

"Religious rights of the Sikhs have been violated," thundered one leader, Mr Mohinder Singh Gosal. "The community has been thrown bare into the cold street."

Sikhs also allege that the Indian High Commission here and consulates across Canada have been trying to infiltrate Sikh leadership cadres for destabilization and discord.

The High Commission braughtly dismissed the accusation which, however, gained a degree of verisimilitude when, in India, Mr Clark said that Canada would review any such activity as inappropriate. For the record, he also made a point of telling his hosts that most Canadian Sikhs are law-abiding and peaceful. "It is the minority that troubles us all."

The struggles of the Sikh community in Canada have often turned ugly. Two people were killed when a dispute between rival factions erupted into a Toronto courtroom in 1980. Two Sikh demonstrators and a policeman were wounded in shooting during a procession outside the Indian Consulate here in 1982. Typically, Sikh leaders accused consulate officials of provoking the clash.

Such incidents have helped to cultivate among many Canadians an image of the Sikhs as a violence-prone minority in a relatively peaceful land of many ethnic groups. Responsible members of the Sikh community are troubled by this image.

"Violence is renounced by all Sikhs," said Mr Tajinder Singh, a leader of the Toronto community. "But if justice is delayed, violence will come. And there will be very few who'll be able to renounce it."

Such ambivalence underlines the complexity of the play of forces and loyalties which tug at Canada's Sikhs. And it makes other Canadians wonder.

Concluded

THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION.

Of the 1.1 million dwellings unfit for human habitation in the UK, half are inhabited by elderly people.

One household in seven is an old person living alone.

1800 old people were victims of violent crime.

Half a million have no living relatives.

1.5 million have no regular visitors.

Nearly 2 million depend entirely on supplementary benefit.

In 1985, 571 old people died in their homes from the cold.

These facts paint a grim picture of what it can mean to be old in Britain today. Help the Aged is dedicated to improving this situation by campaigning for better pensions and heating allowances. Funding Day Centres, Day Hospitals and Hospices. Providing emergency alarm systems and minibuses.

To find out more about our work, or if you would like to make a donation, please write to: John Mayo OBE, Director-General, Help the Aged, St. James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.



Four killed in mass escape from Sind jail

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

At least four people, including a warder, have been killed and many more wounded in shooting during a jailbreak in Sukkur, in central Sind.

Thirty-five condemned prisoners escaped when about 50 armed men seized the electrified fence, overpowered staff and broke open the cells.

It is not yet known whether political prisoners were among the escapees, three of whom were recaptured.

The jail superintendent was among those wounded on Sunday, and is critically ill. No arrests have been made.

There has recently been an upsurge of violence in Sind, the province of the executed former Prime Minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Police told to shoot on sight in Bangladesh

Dhaka — A curfew and orders to shoot on sight have been ordered in the south-eastern Bangladesh town of Sylhet after medical students clashed with local people (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The town's police chief said yesterday that residents and shopkeepers armed with knives and sticks, had attacked a medical college in the town, about 240 miles from here, in protest against students who forced shops to close during an opposition strike call on Saturday.

Cabinet reshuffle: President Ershad has reduced his Cabinet to nine after 18 ministers resigned for parliamentary elections (Reuter reports).

The key defence, foreign affairs and information posts were retained.

THE ARTS

Television
Stain of darkness

In a programme which was not altogether easy to watch, Horizon (BBC2) traced the progress of AIDS from its juvenile life as an "obscure medical curiosity" to its present status as "one of the most lethal and perplexing diseases of modern times. The single most important point about this disease, however, is that it has generated anxiety and outrage out of all proportion to its actual danger to the national population.

Why this should be so is not difficult to guess and last night's programme confirmed that, although it is not a general disease it is predominantly associated in the public mind with sex - largely homosexual sex and always promiscuous sex. So for the prurient or the puritanical it carries a double stain of darkness, and the fact that it is associated with drug-taking only confirms its role as some "dirty" disease connected with the illicit gratification of anti-social desires.

Of course this is morbid nonsense and dangerous nonsense too, since it increases the anxieties of those who may already be furtive about, or ashamed of, their sexuality. That is why a documentary such as this can be important. Its general tone was, as always in this series, dispassionate and this was also significant: the structure and incidence of the virus were examined in some detail, and in the process certain convenient myths were knocked on the head. It became clear, for example, that the disease may only be incidentally related to homosexual men, since in all accounts there are some 10 million sufferers, both male and female, in Central Africa - a region which can hardly be described as "gay". Another unsettling item of information to emerge from this account was the fact that the virus might also destroy the brain cells of those who have been infected.

And yet even within this careful exegesis there did creep in from time to time a certain apocalyptic strain, noticeable in some of the interviews with sufferers as well as in long-term projections of the disease. It is easy to understand why such material was included but, even so, it does encourage a sensationalism which is, under the circumstances, unnecessary. One can get that sensationalism in the popular newspapers, and anyone can speculate what is really needed is simple information.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts
LS/Masson
Festival Hall
Bookspace

This was the London Sinfonietta's farewell to the G.L.C. but, one hopes, to the kind of informal music-making that the partnership of orchestra and local authority has made possible. There must be many people who would be wary of committing themselves to a two-hour concert of new and unknown music, but who were happy to drop in for a taste of this weekend of recitals and talks. Similarly there is a great deal of contemporary music that is not much helped by the rigidities of normal concert-going.

Among the events on offer were a performance of *Pierrot Lunaire* by Linda Hirst and an evening focused on the music of György Kurtág, but my own tasting was of Sunday afternoon's programme including three first performances of works by Michael Rosenzweig. I had not been much impressed by the Symphony in One Movement of his that was played at the Barbican four months ago, but something of the piece was still lumbering about in my head and suggesting a musical mind at work. The evidence of two Solos for wind instruments, flute and bass clarinet, did not really take one any further, but the more recent Sinfonietta was a pleasant surprise. By contrast with the Symphony, it showed Rosenzweig fully able to write complex counter-

The leading theatre openings before Easter. Sheridan Morley, in New York, interviews Larry Kramer (right), author of *The Normal Heart*, the AIDS play starting at the Royal Court tonight; and Lynne Truss meets Lesley Mackie, star of the musical *Judy* at the Strand

Drama of rage and despair

Early last year two very different AIDS memoirs opened in New York, both dealing with what had already become the plague-panic of homosexual communities there and elsewhere. The one that opened on Broadway to generally more respectable and respectful reviews was William Hoffman's *As Is*, a 90-minute close drama of extreme good taste which managed to pussy-foot around its awful subject so successfully that even the uptown Manhattan matrons remained unappalled.

Downtown at Joe Zapp's Public Theatre, and in stark contrast, was Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, a great cry of dramatic and journalistic rage at the way the AIDS catastrophe has been handled by and in New York City. Where *As Is* names no names, *The Normal Heart* indicts Mayor Koch, President Reagan, the *New York Times* and sundry other public monuments for coming too little and too late to the rescue of a gay community that had already been decimated.

And intriguingly, it is *The Normal Heart* that seems to have captured audiences outside New York: it has already had 10 regional productions in America, another half-dozen are planned abroad. Barbara Streisand has bought the movie rights (and intends not only to produce and direct but also play the doctor with hopes of Dustin Hoffman in the central role) while tonight Larry Kramer's drama opens at the Royal Court with the American film star Martin Sheen making his London stage debut.

Taking its title from a poem

by W.H.Auden which also includes the line "all I have is a voice to undo the folded lie", *The Normal Heart* is at least in part autobiographical: Kramer himself is a fiftyish screenwriter and novelist who co-founded an organization called Gay Men's Health Crisis and, like his hero, was eventually forced out of it for shouting too loudly in his political and social rage against what he still sees as a deeply anti-gay establishment in the United States. Talking to him in his book-stacked apartment high above Washington Square, I wondered how the play had started, and when?

"In July 1981 I suddenly became aware of friends getting mysteriously ill on Fire Island, a gay beach community to which seems now, like Fitzgerald's French Riviera, to belong to an altogether lost world. People I knew were suddenly dying and nobody knew how or why; what's more, nobody seemed to want to find out. They were almost literally burying their heads in the sand. I guess that was when gay politics began taking up more of my time than writing.

Born in Connecticut and educated in Washington, Kramer got his first job as a story editor with Columbia Pictures and came over to London with them for the whole of the 1960s.

"My father and brother were lawyers, but from the time I went to Yale I knew I wanted to write, so I went as a messenger boy to the William Morris agency at 20 dollars a week and from there Mike Frankovich took me over to

London with Columbia. I spent most of my time setting up the film of *Women in Love*, and when eventually the Columbia deal on that fell apart I left them and spent all my own money buying back the option and commissioning David Mercer to do the screenplay.

"What he delivered was altogether more Marxist than anything D.H. Lawrence ever considered, so at this point I had no screenplay, no director and all of my own money locked up in the option. I couldn't afford to get another writer so I then wrote the script myself, and after it had been turned down by Peter Brook and Jack Clayton and Stanley Kramer I took it to Ken Russell and the rest I guess you know.

Determined now to become a writer rather than a producer, Larry Kramer returned to New York in the early 1970s and wrote six or seven other screenplays that somehow never got in front of the cameras, as well as a best-selling gay novel called *Faggots*. It was at this point that he first became conscious of the deaths on Fire Island:

"And here we are, almost five years on, with everything still getting worse. When my play first opened in New York the *Times* there ran a disclaimer under the review denying that they had ever tried to ignore the AIDS issue, and certainly they are now doing some major reporting of it. But there is still a feeling here in America that senior politicians want the whole issue played as far down as possible. President Reagan has still not uttered the word AIDS in any public statement,

and work on the vaccine is still desperately under-funded. There's a conspiracy of silence, and when we were in rehearsal they had lawyers from the *New York Times* and the Mayor's office checking us out for libel. They say that Koch goes green whenever my play is mentioned, and in retaliation, when it first opened and he was asked about what he thought of it, he would simply tell everyone to go see *As Is* instead."

What makes Kramer's play so much more dangerous than *As Is* is the fact that he sees AIDS as a political rather than a medical or social issue: where Arthur Miller, when he wished to attack McCarthyism in *The Crucible*, went back three hundred years to find an historical parallel in the witch-hunts of Salem, Kramer says firmly in the present and indeed points across the back walls of his set the names and numbers of those who have died. He also draws uneasy and debatable comparisons between the treatment of gays in 1980s America and that of Jews in 1930s Europe:

"I want to make people cry. It's as simple as that. AIDS is the saddest thing I shall ever have to know in my lifetime, and this is a play about the need for us to stand up and be counted. It's a play about a whole community threatened by prejudice, by fear, by intolerance and by an increasing conservatism."

But, although it is in that sense a very American play, Kramer could not in fact have written it had he not found himself three summers ago at



the National Theatre in London:

"I went one night to see David Hare's *A Mop of the World* and it was only then that I realized how to write *The Normal Heart*. You have to remember that we have no tradition in America of contemporary political plays. Nobody ever mentions Reagan on Broadway; or the state of the nation; but here in David Hare's work I found actors on a stage actually talking about Mrs Thatcher, about the current state of government in England, and I realized how to do it.

"That doesn't mean *Normal Heart* has done things any better: the gay community in New York is still hopelessly divided politically, and they still can't get themselves towards any kind of coherent attitude to the outside and still

hostile world. Mayor Koch meanwhile goes on as if the problem doesn't exist, and money for research is still far too slow and limited. Not that things seem any better in England: I once marched in a Gay Pride rally there and it was pathetic. About three thousand people at most, and in the rain at that. Every summer here in New York we at least manage to get a hundred and fifty thousand people on the march for gay rights.

"*The Normal Heart* was written out of rage and resentment and despair, both at the way the non-gay world was treating AIDS as if it didn't really affect it, and at the way gays were refusing all the militant options. And the rage and resentment and despair are still there, if anything more deeply felt now than ever."

'I do have a lot of sympathy for Judy, though I'm sure she would have driven me crazy'



Getting the essence: Lesley Mackie as Judy Garland

"I am such a yack", apologises Lesley Mackie, before she explodes in another high-pitched raucous cackle. The tiny Scots actress has a lot to talk about at the moment.

Having spent the majority of her 12 years in the theatre playing "characterful jives" and "comedy maids" in provincial rep, she now finds herself at 33 starring in a West End musical - *Judy*, based on the life of Judy Garland, opening at the Strand tomorrow.

She and *Judy* look from the outside like a couple of swells, striding in arm-in-arm, flushed with the success of a run at Greenwich. In fact the history of the play is like one of those Garland-Rooney showbiz fairy-tales. It was written by her actor-husband Terry Walsh when they were both out of work in

1984. Leslie Mackie had by then done a couple of provincial productions of Pam Gems's *Piaf*; she thought she would never find another part so tailor-made for her. So her husband wrote a play about Judy Garland. "Judy's the only other legend apart from Piaf who is five-feet-nothing."

The play passed more or less unnoticed in its first productions in Worcester and Bristol, but at Greenwich both it and Mackie got a good deal of attention. In fact the reviews from Greenwich mean that the Strand can proclaim her performance as "a tour de force" and describe her as "a blazing theatrical personality" even before the show opens. While such Press tributes may do wonders for the box-office, they must also put a huge strain on the star.

Her biggest worry is about the strain on her voice. She does 16 songs in the show, from the young Garland's film numbers like "Over the Rainbow" and "The Trolley Song" to the slow ballads of the later concert career.

"I have to go through from age 14 to 47 - and even Judy was never asked to do that. I don't impersonate her; there's no way you could do an impersonation to cover all those years. In the speaking I do go as near as I can to her real voice, but as far as the singing goes I thought it would be silly to copy, because she is inimitable.

"What I have done is copied her technique, like her breathing habits. She had asthma as a child, and in the songs she used to breathe in the most extraordinary places. She also

had an 's' fault, and her vowels were quite unusual; she often sounded more English than American. I incorporate these things in the singing, and the idea is that people might think that reminds me of Judy Garland, not that somebody trying to copy her. What I set out to do was to get the essence of the woman.

"I do have a lot of sympathy for Judy, though I'm sure if I'd known her she would have driven me crazy. Even her friends had to walk away in the end, because she needed more love than anyone is capable of giving.

"Every time she came on stage she was proving she could fight back, proving she had made it - this time. There's no such thing as a happy legend."

These were obvious high points, but Raimondi's characterization also had its subtleties: his devastatingly effective "put-down" of Ottavio and Masato, simply by addressing them without ever taking their eyes off their respective women; the dangerous jokiness of his relationship with Leporello; the honeyed tones of his seduction of Zerlina; and the contrasting hint of barely-suppressed brutality in his dealings with Elvira.

Raimondi's Giovanni may remain enthralling; his *Giovanina* is more problematic. On the plus side is its vivid, physically extrovert quality, well complemented by Carlo Tommasi's realistic-looking sets: giant blocks of masonry that revolved and slid noiselessly into an ambitious series of 18th-century townscapes. Producer and director combined best, perhaps, in the final scene. The supper room (replete with real minstrels in galleries) suddenly spun away as the Commendatore entered, and we were back in the graveyard. Then, after Giovanni's demise, the desks swung inward again, leaving Leporello and Elvira in the epilogue to claw pathetically at a massive stone wall.

In other important ways, though, Raimondi's ideas seemed flawed from the start, when his Giovanni - neither masked nor in flight from Donna Anna (indeed the two embraced passionately after their first exchange) - killed the Commendatore in full view of the lady. Perhaps this only makes explicit what the opera hints at: that Anna's later desire for revenge hides her own guilt about her father's death. But by removing an essential ambiguity at the outset Raimondi had, one felt, diminished the opera's drama.

That said, it did open the way for Karen Huffstodt, replete with flaming red wig, to turn the troubled Anna into a tragic figure of Lady Macbeth dimensions. Her big voice, inclined to scoop and slide, seemed far from ideal for the coloratura of "Non mi dir", but elsewhere her cultured legato was intensely expressive. She clearly has a big future, though possibly not in Mozart.

This high-voltage Anna did rather usurp emotional territory traditionally occupied by Elvira, making Mariette Kemmer's rather cool interpretation appear all the more peripheral to the opera's main thrust: despite some excellent focused singing in "Mi tradi" but Zehava Gal's Zerlina, though a little fussy at first (no need to allot a separate facial expression to each word of "La ci darem" surely), flowered later, notably in "Batti, batti" which was ravishingly sung from a most unliberated posture.

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Opera
The old menace remains

Don Giovanni
Nancy

The citizens of Nancy must feel well acquainted with Ruggiero Raimondi's Don Giovanni. In recent weeks he has stalked across the screen of the local cinema in Joseph Losey's celluloid version and appeared in the flesh in the town's handsome Opera-Théâtre. But here the long-celebrated portrayal of a single character has spilled over into an all-embracing view of the whole opera: Raimondi not only sings the title-role, but directs Nancy's new *Don Giovanni* as well.

Fears that the burden of captaining the team might impair the baritone's individual star-quality can be quickly dispelled. His Giovanni may no longer pass for 22, but the physical and vocal menace inherent in his performance is undiminished. One important aspect, especially in a small house like Nancy's, is its old-fashioned theatricality. Advancing to the footlights, Raimondi hurled the Champagne Aria at the audience with Rabelaisian vigour. (The resident orchestra, which played acceptably elsewhere, never had a hope of matching the singer for pace or power here.) He made his escape at Act I's conclusion through the auditorium, a brazen figure in black leather. His confrontation with John Tranter's impressively weighty Commendatore in the finale was a splendidly sustained vocal slogging-match.

These were obvious high points, but Raimondi's characterization also had its subtleties: his devastatingly effective "put-down" of Ottavio and Masato, simply by addressing them without ever taking their eyes off their respective women; the dangerous jokiness of his relationship with Leporello; the honeyed tones of his seduction of Zerlina; and the contrasting hint of barely-suppressed brutality in his dealings with Elvira.

Raimondi's Giovanni may remain enthralling; his *Giovanina* is more problematic. On the plus side is its vivid, physically extrovert quality, well complemented by Carlo Tommasi's realistic-looking sets: giant blocks of masonry that revolved and slid noiselessly into an ambitious series of 18th-century townscapes. Producer and director combined best, perhaps, in the final scene. The supper room (replete with real minstrels in galleries) suddenly spun away as the Commendatore entered, and we were back in the graveyard. Then, after Giovanni's demise, the desks swung inward again, leaving Leporello and Elvira in the epilogue to claw pathetically at a massive stone wall.

In other important ways, though, Raimondi's ideas seemed flawed from the start, when his Giovanni - neither masked nor in flight from Donna Anna (indeed the two embraced passionately after their first exchange) - killed the Commendatore in full view of the lady. Perhaps this only makes explicit what the opera hints at: that Anna's later desire for revenge hides her own guilt about her father's death. But by removing an essential ambiguity at the outset Raimondi had, one felt, diminished the opera's drama.

That said, it did open the way for Karen Huffstodt, replete with flaming red wig, to turn the troubled Anna into a tragic figure of Lady Macbeth dimensions. Her big voice, inclined to scoop and slide, seemed far from ideal for the coloratura of "Non mi dir", but elsewhere her cultured legato was intensely expressive. She clearly has a big future, though possibly not in Mozart.

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Galleries

Academics denied

Studies of the Nude
Marlborough Fine Art

John Bellamy
Fischer Fine Art

John Bellamy:
New Portraits
National Portrait Gallery

Studies of the Nude could be seen as propaganda for British art schools, which for all their faults are admired throughout the world. William Packer in his introduction quotes Pope: "Know then thyself, presume not God to scan; the proper study of mankind is man." He says he was preached to him during his life classes. However, it is not the academic strictures of Uglow, Coldstream and the Slade that shine at Marlborough.

In the illustrious company he is keeping, Uglow's dry formulas are shown up for what they are, the waning of the old school tie in the public's face. The much-publicized *Standing Nude, Blue Dress 11* looks like a student's study when seen alongside Auerbach's power, Bacon's startling new yellow painting and Brett Whiteley's sensual exploitation in the line of an odalisque. Once the visitor has been faced by a giant Moore, *Draped Reclining Mother and Baby*, and a small drawing, *Half Figure of a Woman*, that possesses the same fullness of flesh, presence and dignity, he is in no mood even to glance at Uglow. The other painters' straightforward delight in the subject-matter pulls the eyes away. It seems no accident that the idea for the show originally came from Francis Bacon, who never attended art school.

The Marlborough exhibition, until May 21 does not convey the full wealth of British art. It was never intended to do so. However, in

the pursuit of its theme, many of the country's most established painters demonstrate some of their persevering qualities. There are examples of Lucian Freud's and John Davies's unyielding scrutiny. Kitaj and Hockney give displays of their draughtsmanship. Howard Hodgkin records an occasion, *In a hotel bedroom*, in his inimitable fashion. There are some pleasant surprises. John Piper has contributed compelling drawings of women in chalk, ink and watercolour, Richard Hamilton's *Nude 1954* plays with our vision and Pasmore's *The Studio of Ingres*, which used to belong to Kenneth Clark, is included.

Auerbach's three works, with their sheer joy of paint, power of emotion and ambiguity, pave the way for the follow-up exhibition of younger artists the gallery are planning. If they are as generous in the inclusion of non-gallery artists as they have been in the first part, a second such show could prove extremely important. One Scottish painter who should be included is John Bellamy.

Bellamy is a painter's painter. It is therefore ironic that the work of his that has achieved most publicity is Ian Botham's portrait. It is a bold icon of one of England's sporting heroes (or scapegoats), but it does not give any indication of the sensitive dissonance.

Robin Gibson, keeper of 20th-century art at the National Portrait Gallery, believes that Bellamy's latest works, executed after the renewal of his relationship with his first wife, display a new lease of life. Certainly over the years some of his most magnificent portraits have been of Helen. An oil of her last June is overflowing with references to the past, yet is bound together by an arc of light emanating from an old fishing boat. A watercolour of her last May has the grandeur and pose of Mantegna. He uses the old and modern masters freely. Alan Davis is presented almost as part of one of his paintings. David Brown, who curated the St Ives show at the Tate, is placed in the Cornish harbour as rendered by Christopher Wood. The painter confronts



Bellamy's Patrick Caulfield and John Hoyland, with the painter confronting us in the form of Van Gogh

and *Only an emu passing by* both the dreams of a sick man. In the latter the artist's palette makes the most of a simple puppet-theatre construction. Colour, rough strokes and the succession of staring emu eyes evoke the fever within the protruding brow of the mummified figure.

The artist has been accused of being imprecise with his imagery, of not tying down the symbols culled from his life and particularly the fishing village of Port Seton, his birthplace, but the pictorial success of his compositions denies this. They are remarkably cohesive; they invariably disturb.

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ns over Patrick Caulfield's and John Hoyland's shoulders in the form of Van Gogh himself. He is never afraid to take an old image and remake it, which is ultimately all that painters can do.

The Edinburgh-trained Bellamy has not quite enjoyed the overnight success of the neighbouring "Glasgow Boys". The pictures in the National Portrait Gallery testify to the fact that he has been a known and well-respected figure in the art world for many years. He has been a remarkably consistent painter. In 1966 the fisherman-painter, with his son on his knee and brush in hand, glares out at the world to claim his place as a great artist.

The message is continually repeated, as *Self-Portrait with Accordion* (1974) at Fischer confirms. The Museum of Modern Art in Scotland are giving Bellamy a major retrospective later this year, which will tour down to the Serpentine. British galleries are beginning to realize the wealth of artists that this country possesses, but we need more exhibitions like those currently at Fischer, the National Portrait Gallery and Marlborough. We must be looking to promote these artists abroad. It would be a tragedy if the rest of the world took the "Glasgow Boys", who are little more than the tail-end of the New Wave, as representative of what is happening in Britain.

Alistair Hicks

Richard Morrison

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Like mother, like daughter?

Feminism is often blamed for the erosion of the traditional family. In the first of a two-part series, Bel Mooney looks at how the modern woman sees her role

A son is your son 'til he takes a wife. A daughter's your daughter the rest of her life.

The traditional saying encapsulates within its neat, balanced structure a whole unbalanced world of expectation. Mothers produce sons to be unlike themselves, to go out and take their places in the world. They produce girls as mirror images of themselves, binding them emotionally for ever... or so the theory goes.

Warm lady baking bread in the farmhouse kitchen watched by daughters eager to learn; Victorian "angel in the house" breeding girls to be equally passive and decorous, fit to marry men of position. Certainly it is hard to abandon past images. The relationship between mothers and daughters is recognized as establishing patterns of attitude and behaviour which influence generation after generation — even if at some point one daughter rebels.

It was Freud who introduced us to the notion that the differences between the sexes arise from the fact that (for most people) the first most important person in each childhood is a woman. What do girls learn from their mothers? Why, to be mothers, of course.

And so the thinking still goes, despite 10 years of trumpeted equality under the law. Consider: in 1956 Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* went into its second printing, and when *McCall's* magazine ran an article about unhappy wives and mothers, editors were amazed at the response; by 1966 *The Feminine Mystique* by Betty Friedan was selling well in paperback here, and

the Women's Movement had begun in America; by 1976, with *The Female Eunuch* already a classic, we had not only a Sex Discrimination Act and Equal Opportunities Commission, but the first woman leader of a political party.

Yet in 1986, when the increase in reported rapes shocks the nation, it is quickly whispered abroad that this is because feminism has made women abandon their traditional virtues, and poor mothers mean violent and disruptive boy children.

The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world, so it must follow that if the world shows signs of disease it is the fault of that first — mother's — hand. At the beginning of the sixties Betty Friedan wrote that mothers would always take the blame — so great is their perceived burden of responsibility.

Yet it is still sought. Clare Rayner's huge postbag convinces her that "the desire to be a married lady with children is constant". Friedan saw the process as inevitable: "... it is still easier for a woman... to live through her husband and children than to make a road of her own in the world. For she is the daughter of that same mother who made it so hard for a girl... to grow up."

De Beauvoir described the atavistic collusion: "My mother's whole education and upbringing had convinced her that for a woman the greatest thing was to become the mother of a family. She couldn't play that part unless I played the dutiful daughter." Of course few mothers want to break the mum-daughter-mum chain.



Sharing motherhood: Rose Massey and her adopted daughter Jackie



Generation gap: Caroline and Alice Scott, amused by their differences



'I think it is odd not wanting to have children'

Jackie Massey typifies the traditional attitude to motherhood — something of which she is proud. In 1958, at the age of 17, she gave birth to Daniel, after a stable relationship with her boyfriend Paul since she was 15. He is 10 years older than her, and works as a painter and decorator. They talk of marriage but Jackie sees no hurry.

On the surface, that marks her as a member of a more liberated generation; such ease of choice would not have been dreamt of when her mother, Rose, was 18. Still, Jackie's expectations and aspirations exactly mirror her mother's, and the two women share a particular kind of female closeness. Each day Jackie brings the baby to her mother's small South London flat.

Rose was one of a large family, and escaped from her strict Catholic girlhood by coming to England and quickly marrying Pete, a widower with a young family. "I'd always loved babies, and was always looking after them. Not so much dolls, I preferred the real thing! Always mothering." Rose, with her ready-made family, also wanted children of her own. When it proved impossible, she adopted Jackie: "That's why I always think it's so uncanny, how like me she is."

Despite her religion, Rose was "delighted" when Jackie told her she was pregnant. "I think I couldn't wait for the day when she'd have babies. It would be like having her all over again. Deep down I knew she'd have babies early. Of course Pete was upset at first because he wanted bigger and better things for her, but now he's happy."

And what did Jackie want? "Well, when I was a little girl I always played with loads of dolls. If I thought of a job it was a nursery nurse — always something with babies. I couldn't wait to have one of my own. I know you get some

women who don't want babies, but to me it's odd." As for the son who toddles round the tiny dining room, adored by his mother and grandmother, Jackie confesses that her boyfriend wants him to be tough, but she wants to "smother him. I suppose".

Girls like Jackie Massey shrug all distant notions of sexual equality aside as nothing to do with them. Yet Rose and Jackie have, in a curious way, their own matriarchal power: traditional and beyond the politics of housework. Much feminist literature ignores this; for example, two collections of writings (*No Turning Back* and *Sweeping Statements*) have selections on everything from male violence to work — but none called *Motherhood*. It is as if the reality of women's inherited needs is too complex.

More recently, the "Earth-mother" myth has seen a revival, and the mother-daughter relationship celebrated. One American writer, Judith Arcana, asserts baldly: "Mothers socialize their daughters into the narrow role of wife-mother; in frustration daughters reject their mothers..." Such drama ignores the fact that many daughters want so to be "socialized".



'Instead of choices, you must now have a career'

Such a mother is Caroline Scott. Her daughter, Alice, is 17 and a pupil at Queen's College, the Harley Street girls' public school. Caroline was frustrated in her ambition to go to university and is disappointed that Alice has rejected her own chance. Caroline, divorced when Alice was six, has always worked as a secretary and believes in most liberal feminist ideas; Alice wants a white wedding, and rejects them. The two seem amicably amused by their differences. Mrs Scott says that, because the horizons were much narrower when she was a girl, she always assumed she would get married and have children. Which seems

more important in her imagination, marriage or a job? "Marriage. I feel I would put a lot into it... you know, in the summer I had this really romantic picture of me sitting in a big garden and my husband coming home from his work... but now you are really allowed to say that! Oh no — you must think of a career. I think it's bad that you are made to feel guilty for wanting to be a wife and bid mother."

It's really backfired, this feminism, so that instead of having choices, you're supposed to want an independent career. I get really angry and find myself veering in the opposite direction, just to be different!... I think that everybody still thinks that a woman should look after the child, and the man have a job. I think that lots of girls of my generation have that idea, whereas in the older women who don't, I know I should want to look after my own children. I would never expect my husband to give up his job."

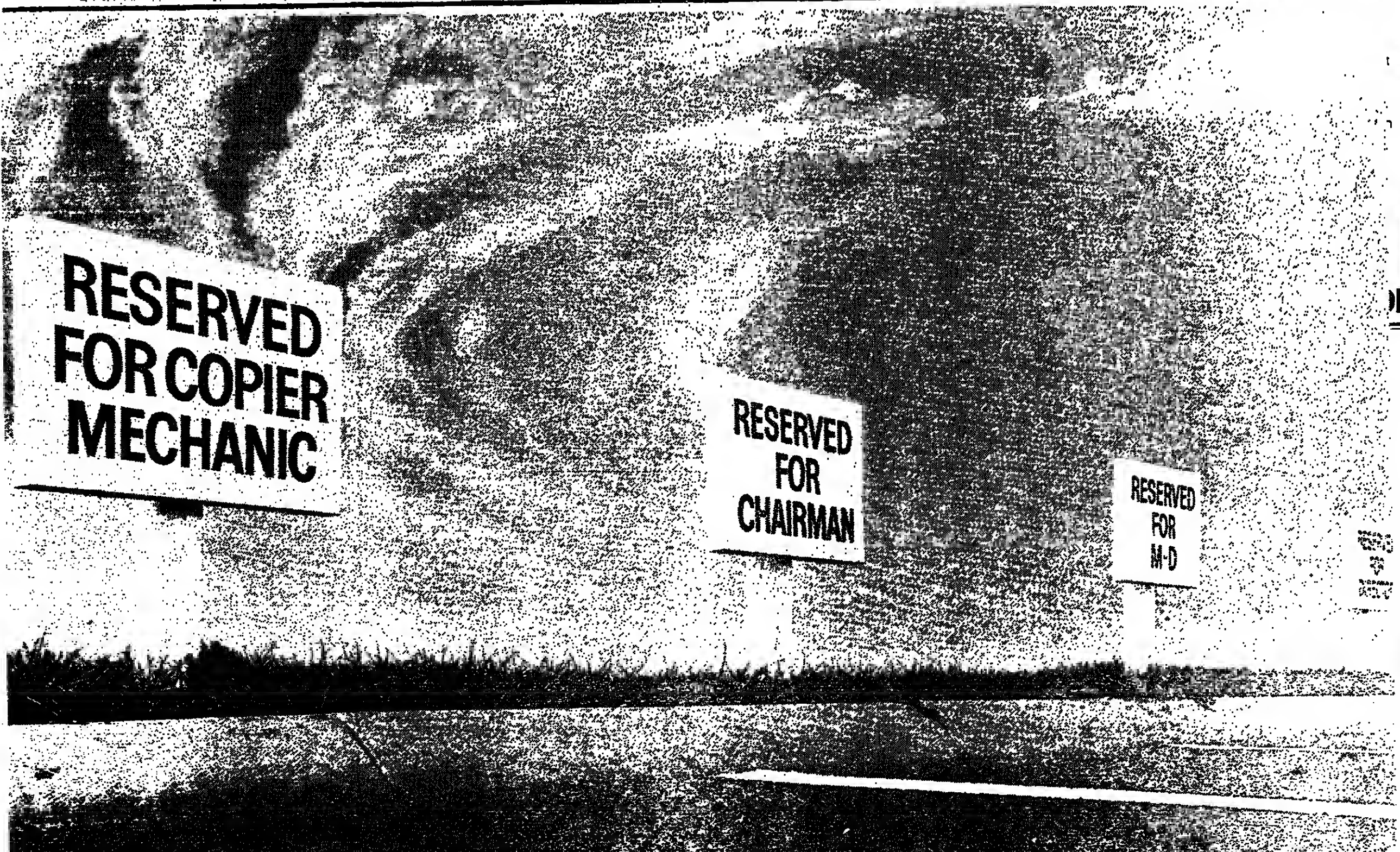
Alice admits that she reaps the benefits of change. For instance, she would insist that her husband help with the children — although, like her own mother, she would like to help, and object if it were not given. And as for a daughter of her own... "I'd want her to know that an education is important, so she won't just have to rely on getting married." Like her own mother, in fact? "Well, yes."

And what if Alice's daughter rejected her ideas, and opted for feminist celibacy? "It would shock me, because I'm not like that. Because I'd wanted children. But I wouldn't push her. I'd tell her it's possible to be a mother, and have her views. But I wouldn't argue with her, because honestly, my mother has never said to me, 'You must think like me.' So I wouldn't either."

Like mother, like daughter, despite the differences.

TOMORROW

Can motherhood and a career be reconciled?



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Pathways through the maze of power

The division of authority between minister and civil servant is in theory finely drawn. In practice, as Colin Hughes reports in the second part of his series, it is far from clear

Civil servants live in a twilight zone, the silhouettes of their power and status appearing behind a veil of anonymity. The landscape they inhabit is constantly shifting. Governments come and go, sometimes throwing up great earthworks, sometimes merely trimming hedges. Some observers, looking today through aerial photographs, detect traces of a terrors which has marked the course of Britain's history. On one day last week, the items of news coincided, joltingly, at all levels: staff the main London passport office walked out in a row over technology; the Government looked down on GCHQ staff who were rejoined unions; and Clive Jopling published a book depicting Whitehall as a sorry tale of greed and farce.

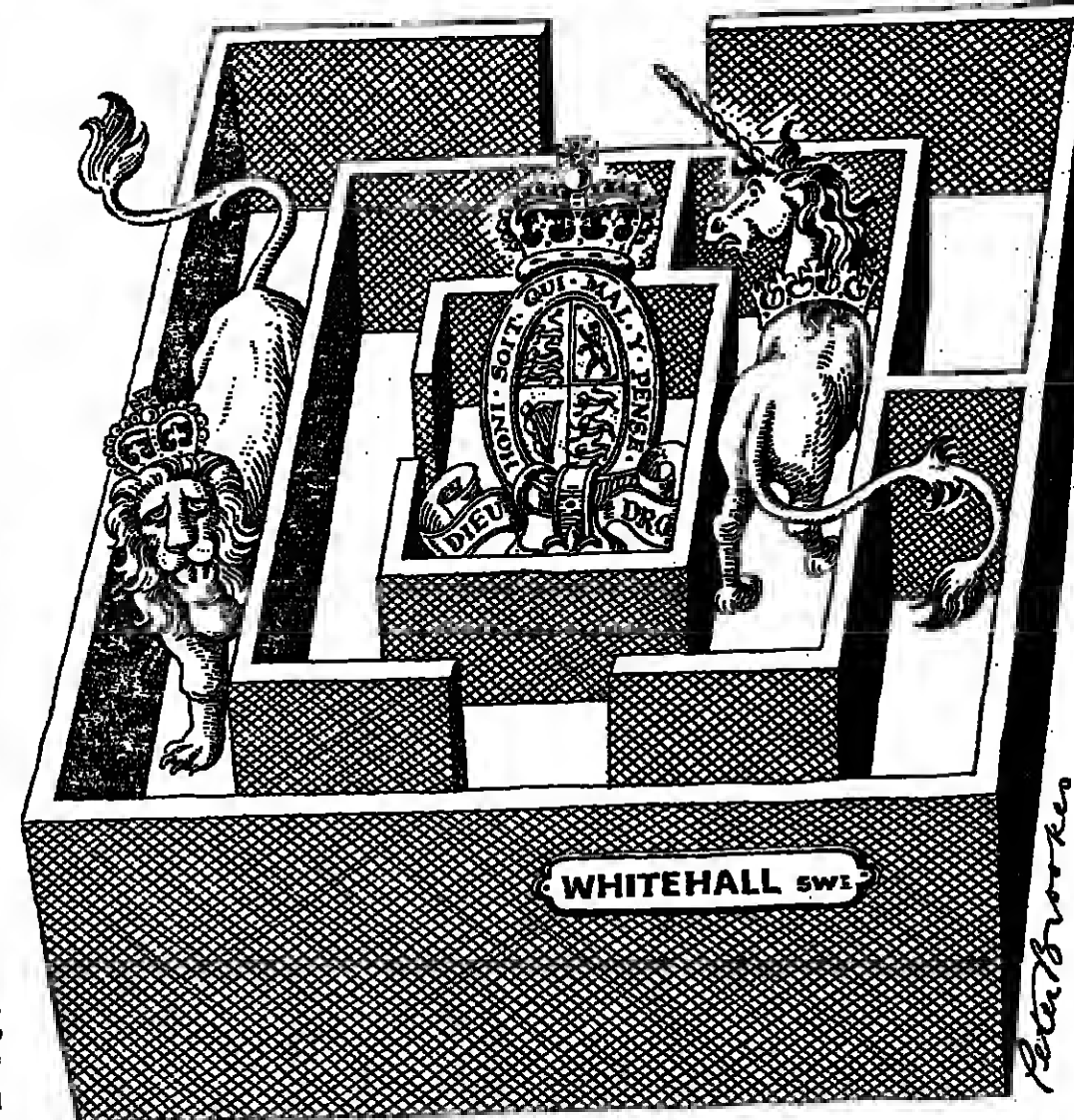
Ministers can't know all that goes on in their departments

Although the lines of power and accountability between officials and ministers are well known in theory, using a textbook to find your way around the Civil Service would be like finding your way around London on foot with nothing but a Tube map. That is why an entire industry has been set up to help companies and campaigners penetrate Whitehall's inner sanctum. Andrew Gifford used to be an adviser to David Steel. At the beginning of Mrs Thatcher's first term he joined fellow ex-advisers Edward Heath and James Laghlan to guide clients through the shifting maze. He found "a lot of public relations companies would have a minister and permanent secretary in for lunch once a year and feel that was sufficient". The prime qualification of the modern professional lobbyist is that they know the names of secure principals and assistant secretaries who actually write the papers on which ministers decide policy. Decisions are frequently made in the large grey areas where civil servants act on their own initiative, neither informing nor consulting their ministers. A former London-based diplomat points out that, if he had received a telephone call at 5 am from the British official at the United Nations asking how he should behave in the next five minutes, he would have been crucified if he had woken a minister who only got to bed at 2 am after a long session of votes. "I would tell him to vote, and report it to the minister later in the day."

ambiguities of authority can lead to acute embarrassment. In principle, civil servants are the estate managers who stay on, while their landlords chop and change according to the electorate's whim. In fact, once in power, most ministers are persuaded by Whitehall's appeals for "reality". As Sir Patrick Nairne, former Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security, says: "When they have a chance to know what the facts are, they sometimes think the existing plans are exactly what they want."

The Civil Service knows the life of the land, and is far better able to study the implication of opposition policy than the political parties themselves. Mandarins say they draw their own manifesto pledges more often than they suffer abuse for trying to thwart ministers' aims. Recently, for example, civil servants had to give firm reminders to the Scottish Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and the Agriculture Secretary Michael Jopling of the government's policy to privatize lands owned by the Forestry Commission. The departmental ministers seemed to have hoped this had been forgotten.

William Plowden, a former civil servant who is now director of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, argues that: "The doctrine of ministerial responsibility for departmental acts no longer fits the facts of governmental life at the end of the twentieth century. Ministers cannot know all that is going on in their departments and, when things go wrong, they usually do not resign."



mistakes, and ministers for policy failure. John Ward, general secretary of the First Division Association, asks: "Do officials now carry the can for the mistakes of their ministers?"

The traditional rules were restated in classic Whitehall form last year by Sir Robert Armstrong. The core of the code was punchy and unequivocal: "The Civil Service as such has no constitutional personality or responsibility separate from the duly elected government of the day". The document was intended, in Sir Robert's words, to "steady nerves" after the Ponting trial; it has in fact spurred the backbench Select Committee

on the Civil Service to launch a lengthy inquiry, to report this June. The civil servant's life is sometimes portrayed as a simplistic battle between struggling Cabinets and scheming mandarins. The reality is more complex. Officials handling negotiations with the three companies bidding for the Channel Tunnel contract attempted to ignore the Prime Minister's insistence that proposals should include a road link because, in the words of one representative, "they thought the idea was plain barmy".

resignation. Norman Tebbit and the civil servants have ensured that, when the White Paper is published in April, the clause will have reappeared. Organization-chart signposts often lead down empty alleyways. Permanent secretaries frequently have little more control over branches headed by deputy secretaries, or units mastered by under-secretaries, than the chance to correct spelling in papers before they get to the minister. Sir David Hancock, head of the Department of Education and Science, was regarded as a star at his home in the Treasury, but has found it hard to gain control from overburdened and frustrated deputy secretaries. Half the problem lies with Sir Keith Joseph's failure to override officials. Deputy secretaries like Sir John Saville, running the higher education branch, are caught between bodies like the University Grants Committee and the deep blue pool of right-wing backbench pressure. Mrs Thatcher's preference for "doers" above thinkers has made recent permanent secretary appointments controversial. Although the club is still marked by Oxbridge career men who have spent their entire working lives in the insulated Whitehall world, the majority are now models of post-war meritocracy.

appointed another activist, Michael Quinlan, instead. Had Derr stayed, his cold relations with Number 10 would have left him on the sidelines, and he retired early to become director of the Policy Studies Institute. Quinlan has started the Downing Street policy unit, which prides itself on being able to pre-empt the cumbersome bureaucracy with quick policy drafts, by insourcing his staff to research and write papers literally overnight. The career advance of Nick Monk, a leading Deputy Secretary in the Treasury, is blocked by his critical view of the Government's economic policy, while Sir Peter Middleton's reputed sympathy was him the Treasury Permanent Secretaryship, second only to the Cabinet Secretary in Whitehall status and, along with Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse as the Ministry of Defence, the only civil servant position to be paid the top salary of £70,000. Throughout the Civil Service there have been appearances of change. But Whitehall is still dominated by civil servants who entered the system almost straight from university and expect to remain until they retire. The vestige of private sector styles

Do officials now carry the can for their ministers?

dominated in recent years is superficial. Last year Geoffrey Fry, in his book *The Changing Civil Service*, pointed out: "The Civil Service has little choice about wearing the currently fashionable clothes, but much the same bodies remain underneath."

Recent attempts to bring administrators in from outside have enjoyed limited success. Montagu Alfred, long-time as chief executive of the Property Services Agency when corrupt staff were being weeded out, was obliged to leave after a short stay. His private sector approach fell flat and he was frozen out by career civil servants. Real change in the terrain is gradual and long-term. A widening generation gap is causing concern among those at the top of the pyramid. The new breed of young civil servants have no abstract commitment to a prestige public service ethic. For them it is much like any other job. The Management and Personnel Office's principle that a "career Civil Service" means a staffing policy based primarily on recruiting people as they leave the education system, and retaining them in the service until they retire, is being irresistibly undermined. Wider social forces of take-it-or-leave-it individualism, along with demands for technocrats who are both managerially experienced and specialist-trained, make that pattern look as outdated as medical open fields.

TOMORROW
How will Whitehall absorb the political shocks in store?

ARMSTRONG THE ARCH-MANDARIN

Sir Robert Armstrong is the real-life Sir Humphrey - Secretary in the Cabinet, Prime Minister's confidant, arch-mandarin - who has entered the limelight over Westland, Ponting, GCHQ, and wielded growing influence since his appointment five years ago. He wears a double crown: he is also Head of the Home Civil Service, a combination of jobs that critics say sits uneasily on one pair of shoulders. (He says the latter post is largely titular). If anyone can resolve the apparent contradiction of simultaneously acting as Mrs Thatcher's right-hand man and the senior representative of the Civil Service, he can. Even critics concede his brilliance in the traditional mandarin skills.

He who controls the agenda and minutes wields the power, said the late Richard Crossman. Ministers must go through the Cabinet Secretary to raise an issue. Armstrong and his staff record Cabinet and Cabinet Committee decisions. Each week he meets his senior permanent secretaries; ministers rarely have similar time to discuss policy outside the Downing Street meetings where procedure is formal. Since he may yet play a brokering role between Buckingham Palace and the candidates for government after a hung general election, an apolitical reputation is critical. Armstrong was principal private secretary to both Heath and Wilson. Just 59, he is due to retire next March.



Sir Robert: power broker

A SECURE JOB WITH PROSPECTS

Sue Partridge was attracted to a career in the Civil Service by its prospects of secure, long-term employment and the opportunities it offered for promotion. Eighteen years later she has advanced from an £8-a-week clerical assistant to £11,000-a-year higher executive officer in the Department of Trade and Industry's north-west regional office. Mrs Partridge, aged 37, is the office manager for the department based in Manchester, but her wide-ranging responsibilities also cover Whitehall's outposts for the department in Liverpool and Bootle. In total there are 220 staff and she oversees the spending of the £2.7 million north-west annual budget. The Civil Service, she

'The image may be dull, but the reality isn't'

says, is much changed since she arrived. "The service is smaller now, it has been streamlined. When the cut-backs were announced morale in the service was low. But now they have happened the morale is going up again. "When I first came into the service people had a high regard for it and for civil servants. But we did go down in the public opinion. It happened around five years ago. It was a time when more people were becoming unemployed and going to the

Department of Health and Social Security and not getting immediately what they thought they were entitled to.

Mrs Partridge has responsibilities that in the private sector would probably earn her more money, but she is satisfied with her lot. "The image may be dull but the reality is far from that. The Civil Service still offers secure employment and good opportunities for promotion in return for hard work. It is especially good for women because of its equal opportunities and you don't always get that in industry even today." She hopes to gain further promotion to senior executive officer rank but accepts that that will probably require a move to London.

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The dotty dictionaries

J.L. Carr, who runs an eccentric publishing house from his spare bedroom, celebrates 21 years in business

dislike of taking themselves off. For this, in his *Dictionary of Pretels, Parsons, Vergers, Wardens, Sidemen & Preachers, Sunday School teachers, Hermits, Ecclesiastical Flower Arrangers, Fifth Monarchy Men and False Prophets*: "Charles Waterdown of Walton Hall, Essex, churchwarden c. 1862, was said to be able to scratch his neck with his big toe and customarily, while entertaining church dignitaries, to dine beneath the table, the while growling and snapping at guests' ankles". Most of the 87 titles, which now have a combined sale of 500,000 copies via 180 booksellers, are highly selective reprints of the standard poets. Carr believes that 16 pages of poetry on the trot is quite enough for anyone. Some are

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14 Joss (4)
16 Body rubber (7)

19 Start (5)
20 Remain (4)
22 Appraise (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 907
ACROSS: 1 Sanctum 2 Mama 3 Realize 10 Abortive 11 Hill 13 Profitable 17 Aunt 18 Wedgwood 21 Evolved 22 Essence 23 Portray 24 Taste
DOWN: 1 Sampson 2 Rondo 3 Beamingly 4 Shrove Tuesday 5 Near 6 Trivial 7 Mused 12 Fragment 14 Ranour 15 Make up 16 Adhere 19 Ossia 20 Ever

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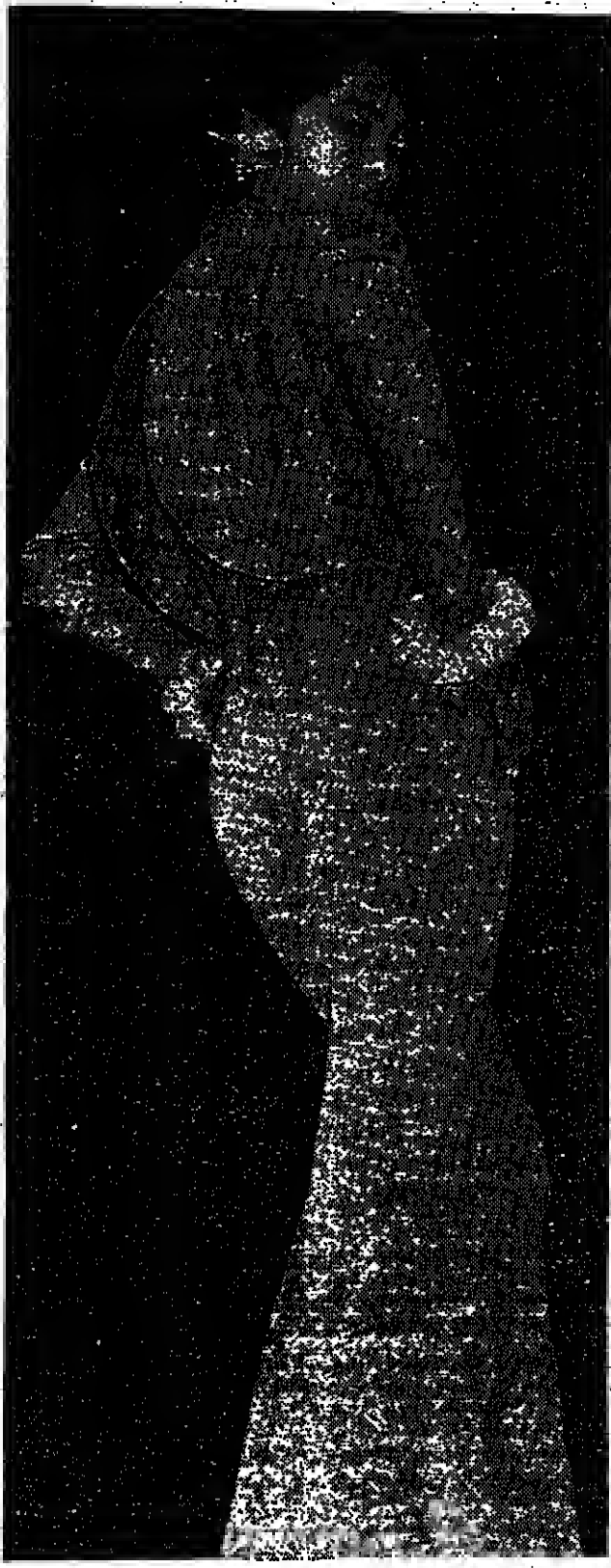
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Alan Franks

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

SWING and CLING



INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS

PARIS

The buzz word in Paris is 'cohabitation'. It expresses, with a risqué ring, the facts of French political life. And while the Left is bedding down with the Right, fashion is also swinging between conservative and radical chic.

A return to tailoring and to the roots of French couture is giving us a seductive Paris season. But streetwise designers strike a harsher note with sober colours, strict lines and a Marxist message.

Swing and cling is the fashion story. A ballet theme brings puffed skirts, peplums that swirl like a tutu, full-skirted riding coats and anything - from a cape back to a fluted hem - that can give us a runway whirl.

Against the swing are figure-hugging jersey and finely-seamed flannel, both favourite fabrics for the tubular dresses that are a star garment of the season.

The two trends cohabited perfectly in Claude Montana's collection, where perky jackets, impeccably cut in blonde cashmere, swung out like Baby Doll nighties over skinny suede trousers. This was a strong silhouette to match the big-shouldered outline Montana gave to the fashion world exactly ten years ago. He has now softened those shoulders on his new full-skirted coat.

Montana's attention to detail remains exceptional: wool jacquard embroidery on forest green suede (a Paris colour), gauntlets cuffed as falcon's wings and ice crystal beading.

Müglér played it cool - if that is the word to describe his curvaceous ice maidens, their bodies sculpted in pastel tailoring, snowflakes worked in relief on their sweaters or crystal studding their vanilla chamomile leather suits.

All this was fun, and part of a fashion spectacular that included a lunar landscape set, a tuxedo of huskies, commissar dresses draped like the Russian flag, and a swan lake of tutus.

Behind it all were convincing dresses, wide-shouldered, narrow in the skirt, the line softened with asymmetric drapes and peplums. Shaped Louis heels for shoes and boots brought a new look.

Gaultier went for an A-line silhouette that looked new, young and fresh. He also produced the most original show, sending his garments out singly down a snaking catwalk that led to scaffolding. There the 100 models posed on turntables, swung their legs and showed off Gaultier's constructivist chic. For this most street-conscious of designers has taken the Marxist philosophies of disaffected youth, and worked it into clothes cut in sombre military colours - black, bottle green and blood red, splashed with Cyrillic lettering.

Constricted tailoring was all in the upper part of the body, with the bar of the A drawn across the thighs. Below that, skirt hems were edged with fur, stitched into a balloon knit of pleats or made in wet suit fabric to stand away at the knees.

The newly-restored Louvre courtyard was the setting for the main fashion shows. The young designers showed under the vault of the Beaux Arts. They back tailoring and the art of couture cutting, with both Doby Broda and Prémontville Dewarin shaping tailored suits and dresses. Their muse is the Chanel of Karl Lagerfeld, who yesterday morning further updated the Chanel classics, tucking the tweed suit in at the waist or putting a swiny three-quarter jacket over a long skinny skirt. Hounds-tooth is the bold new trend; lace is used for shapely evening sheaths.

Karl Lagerfeld had already produced his best collection so far, under his own label, using the swing and cling theme for fluid tailoring and for a new skirt bias-cut from the calf. The best of the shows have shown that couture elegance and body-conscious sexiness can cohabit in Paris fashion. King of the curves Azzedine Alaïa and king of couture Yves Saint Laurent, have yet to show.



Above: Thierry Müglér's twirling tutu. His ballerina silhouette brought small waists and peplums over narrow skirts and trousers. The same shape grows down to make the long swirling riding coat that is a Paris favourite. Above left: Claude Montana's cling and swing on a skinny grey jersey tube flaring into a cape back. The swiny top also made a short and wide jacket shape for Montana. Top right: Chanel seaming. Twin tucks nip the waist of Lagerfeld's new suit with a slim on-the-knee skirt. His revamp of Chanel revitalises couture tailoring and dog tooth tweed, which are seen all over Paris. Right: Gaultier's constructivist chic. The fitted tunic over a flared skirt makes an A-line silhouette and eases the strict line. Russian letters band the sleeves

Photographs by Harry Kerr

TUTU MUCH

Karl Lagerfeld has found a new role model. The designer now sees himself as the Sun King.

By the standards of men's fragrance launches, Lagerfeld's takeover of Versailles was impressive. Firstly there was the sight of Karl flanked on one side by Danielle Mitterrand and on the other by a pregnant Princess Caroline of Monaco.

The cavorting in tutus by the Monte Carlo ballet in the rococo gem of the Versailles theatre was a nice touch, for Karl's witty embroideries of the season are based on ballerinas. It was clever to out-twinkle the Galerie des Glaces by the fireworks show on the lawn outside. The tour through Marie Antoinette's bedroom was a bonus. And the pyramid of lobsters stacked up to the ceiling looked good by the light of two thousand white candles.

Karl stayed up all night so as to be fresh for his Lagerfeld show. He then flew to Monaco for the Rose Ball and back afterwards to prepare for Chanel.

Maybe the designer who produces eight major collections a year isn't modelling himself on Louis XIV. But will he look his best in leotards and cape as Superman?



Lagerfeld's ballerina embroideries on crepe



Left: Comme des Garçon's pebble and check pinafore dress. Right: Yohji Yamamoto's slim-line tailoring and bandage-wrapped head

Creative cutting triumphed at Comme des Garçons. The pinafore was the newest shape, cut like an elongated tabard and played out on a theme of tweedy checks in a palette of black and white, navy and cream. Jersey, including a stiff foam-backed version, was the most important fabric. Designer Rei Kawakubo replaced her

JAPANEASY

martial music with swing. Yohji Yamamoto bandaged his models' heads, but this looked sculptural rather than threatening - and so did the clothes. Yohji took a playful look at couture tailoring. Fitted jackets had castellated hems puffed up as balloon

peplums. The rest of the lines were slim, with a witty nod to Chanel in checked tweed.

While the rest of Paris went for sombre colours spiced with red, green and icy pastels, Issey Miyake went wild over colour: vivid mixes of apricot, violet and black, for knits that were held in shape with suspender clips.

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THE TIMES DIARY

McCarthy witch hunt?

As the London School of Economics governors, including Sir Geoffrey Howe's wife Elspeth, denounce apartheid and call for a review of LSE funds in South Africa, allow me to drop a potential bombshell: the LSE's Economics Department has invited Pik Botha's former economic adviser, Professor Colin McCarthy, to carry out research at the school in May and June.

In the Education Bill published recently by Sir Keith Joseph, parent power is being further extended. The governing bodies of secondary schools are to have five parents. These will be empowered to set out their policy for what should be taught, in consultation with the local education authority and head teacher.

Parent power has been strengthened by a right to information about schools, first advocated in a circular in 1977 and subsequently enacted in legislation. I did not require schools to publish examination results, because comparisons can be highly misleading if the social composition of school catchment areas is not taken into account.

Neil Kinnock cannot be entirely chuffed with the selection of leaving Lambeth councillor Sharon Atkin to fight Nottingham East, a Tory marginal, at the general election: she has frequently clashed with the national leadership over black sections. But if anyone hopes she might be dislodged from standing through bankruptcy in the face of a £3,997 surcharge imposed by the courts over last year's delay in setting a rate, they can forget it.

Labour whip John McWilliam almost gave the parliamentarians the chance to throw off its normal discretion in his bunt for speakers for the Budget debate. "Garath," began the bespectacled McWilliam to someone he took to be Labour MP Gareth Wardell, "would you mind speaking?" It took fully 30 seconds before McWilliam's victim managed to get a word in edgewise and identify himself as ITN political editor Glyn Mathias.



Neville's heartbroken. Now he feels compelled to pay the two quid.

Attempts to calm visitors' fears about security at Heathrow have backfired. A 35th anniversary visit by a group of Americans from Hartford, Connecticut, to Hartford, Herts, has just been cancelled. Their travel agent wrote to Hartford's town clerk, Ann Kirby, to say that newspaper reports about our gun-toting bobbies had raised fears to the point where the good citizens of Connecticut planned to spend the summer staying put.

Not one Gerry Adams but two had walk-on parts in the bungled extradition of Evelyn Glenholmes in the Dublin high court. Taking the more prominent part was, of course, Gerard, the Sinn Fein leader, keeping a lower profile was Gerald Adams, the lawyer in the DPP's department in London who, with others, was dealing with the affair.

Although it doesn't quite compare with the largesse of Paul Getty, the Soviet embassy has sent an unsolicited cheque for £250 to Higginbotham Cemetery in London - presumably to stop the grass growing over Marx's tomb.

The man who bestrode the trade union world like Colossus, whose opinion was sought on almost every important decision during the Wilson and Callaghan governments, is about to go public: trace yourself for the Jack Jones autobiography. Entitled *A Union Man*, it will be published this summer and promises to contain salutory advice to Norman Willis et al.

Ten years ago, in a speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, James Callaghan, then prime minister, sparked off the "great debate" on education. After castigating variations in standards, the lack of a core curriculum, the gulf between industry and education and the questionable results of informal teaching methods, he concluded: "We must aim for something better."

The Ruskin speech was followed by a series of regional conferences. Parents, teachers, the local authorities and representatives of industry and trade unions came and debated. A decade later, the themes of that debate are sounding still.

There have been significant changes. Take the role of parents. They did not serve as governors of the schools their children attended. They were seldom welcomed even as visitors. That situation was transformed by the Taylor Committee which, in 1977, called for a quarter of places on governing bodies to go to parents. Provision for parent governors was incorporated in my 1978 Education Bill, which was half-way through its committee stage when hailed by the general election. It became law in the Conservatives' 1980 Education Act.

Parent power has been strengthened by a right to information about schools, first advocated in a circular in 1977 and subsequently enacted in legislation. I did not require schools to publish examination results, because comparisons can be highly misleading if the social composition of school catchment areas is not taken into account.

Parents now at least have an opportunity to influence the education system. It may not yet have been fully grasped. But the potential is there.

Educational change moves slowly. Reform percolates through scores of organizations and institutions, each one with a finger in the pie. "You are leaving a ministry which works on a 24-hour timescale for one where the timescale is eternity," a civil servant told me in 1967 when I moved to the DES from the Ministry of Labour.

Objective research, such as the ambitious study by the National Children's Bureau, shows that the qualities of an individual school matter more than the system. Good comprehensives offer a better education than poor selective schools and vice versa. The quality of head and teaching staff is vital, although inadequate supplies of books and equipment and poor maintenance of school buildings have their part to play in explaining performance.

Today the issue of how good secondary schools are is being overtaken by the rapid growth of sixth-form and tertiary colleges, able to offer a much wider curriculum than the traditional sixth form, and an adult atmosphere in which discipline ceases to be a problem. Already many independent school pupils are transferring to local authority colleges for sixth-form work.

Sixth-form and tertiary colleges also offer a solution to the least defensible and most damaging of all the divisions in our segregated educational system, the academic-vocational divide. Young men and women in the tertiary colleges can study for technological and vocational qualifications alongside those doing A-levels, and can combine subjects drawn from both; that is impossible in most school sixth forms and even in many sixth-form colleges.

This new opportunity is echoed lower down the secondary school structure by the present government's commendable Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI). These courses should be available to all pupils aged 14 and above, including those on academic courses. The past ten years have brought progress. But problems remain. The first revolves around teachers' perception of their professional role. Badly paid and much criticized, not least by the present government, teachers have become resentful and demoralized. The year-long dispute has undermined support for maintained education among parents and pupils. The teachers' unions have kicked into their own goal. But the dispute has also given many teachers experience of teaching without the penumbra of

Shirley Williams finds urgent reforms still in the pending tray a decade after the 'great debate' on education

Schools: the lessons still for learning



But governments have a habit of abandoning or downgrading their predecessors' initiatives. Ten years on, Britain is even worse off for graduate engineers and for people with skills in the new technologies. Switching scarce places in higher education from the arts and humanities to science and technology, as the government proposes, will not help, for the schools are not producing enough A-level students qualified in those subjects.

The problem lies deeper. It lies with the shortage of science teachers and with our absurdly over-specialized secondary examination system, which allows pupils to drop maths and science at 16 and even younger.

The dispute between advocates of comprehensive secondary schools and selection of children for schools on grounds of ability goes on, and on. It will certainly flare up if the Tory radical right succeeds in putting vouchers on the agenda. But in fact it is a dispute that is merely an echo of old, dead battles.

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Bringing together the vocational and the academic

It is absurd for the DES to have no effective powers. Yet a wholly centralized department which lays down the curriculum and directs its teachers would be alien to our tradition.

Leaving it all to parents won't work either. Voucher systems run up against the physical limitations of buildings and the management capacity of head teachers. They may be excellent in a small school, inadequate in a large one.

The solution, I believe, lies in two developments. At the centre, education and training should be brought together, by incorporating the MSC's youth and adult training functions into the DES. Such an amalgamation would have beneficial effects in healing the academic-vocational divide.

It should be complemented, however, by a further devolution of power to school governing bodies which include parents. Each school, as in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, should be allocated part of the overall education budget to spend as its governing body chooses on books or decorations or extra teachers. Information on how this allocation is to be spent should be made available to parents. The governing body could also have the power to hire and fire teachers, subject only to the final approval of the local education authority.

Education would become responsive to those it serves, children and parents, at the school level, while at government level the crying national need to bridge the academic-vocational divide would be met. Such a reform would be a worthy sequel to the great debate.

The author, president of the SDP, was Education Secretary, 1976-79.

Roger Scruton Public money muzzlers

The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth; if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error."

John Stuart Mill's words encapsulate what was, until recently, a common premise of British politics, and a cornerstone of our education system. It was assumed that, within the limits of decency and public order, a British citizen is free to speak his mind, and that the political decisions should not be taken before a period of free public discussion. It was also assumed that no educational institution at the higher level, whether college, university or polytechnic, could engage in censorship and still remain its academic standing.

Of course, public pressures make the expression of certain opinions difficult. Those who speak on the "right" know that they must contend with a fearful barrage of *bien pensant* hostility. Nevertheless, they learn in due course to despise fashionable opinion and to ignore those who live by it. Even in the strongholds of the left establishment, therefore - in universities and polytechnics - it has been possible for a right-winger to speak his mind. If his prospects have suffered, it has been merely because, in the opinion of his respectable colleagues, right-wing convictions are so conclusive a sign of a defective intelligence as to outweigh the evidence of a lifetime's teaching or research.

In recent months, however, the position of the right-winger has appreciably worsened. His opinions are now widely censored, not only in public debate but also in places of learning. This is especially so when those opinions touch on the question of ethnic minorities, where to diverge from the left-wing orthodoxy in the smallest particular is to risk the charge of "racism."

In fact most people do diverge from this orthodoxy, and are deeply insulted by the accusation that despite their record of hospitality to immigrants they are really "racist." The suppression of their viewpoint could lead in the end to a dangerous reaction.

Nevertheless, to speak for the majority over this issue, on which the majority are judged to be "right wing," is to risk harassment and slander.

Such has been the fate of the *Salisbury Review*. Some time ago one of its contributors, Ray Honeyford, questioned the orthodox view of multicultural education. Through a long campaign of organized intimidation, he was

forced to withhold his opinions from the press, and finally to resign from his job as a headmaster. Another contributor, Jonathan Savery, expressed his support for Honeyford's arguments, drawing on his own considerable experience as a teacher of ethnic minorities. He too is being victimized. Avon Education Authority has summoned him to a "disciplinary hearing," while the local NUT has launched a campaign of denigration, circulating documents calculated to inflame opinion against him and to prejudice the outcome of his "trial."

Nobody who writes for the *Salisbury Review* is really safe from harassment and slander. Whether they write about "weasel words" (F.A. Hayek), "the politics of language" (Sally Sheerin) or the difference between the sexes (myself) the left-wing press will find ways to discover therein a secret element of "racism" and so to justify its damaging accusations. I was invited recently by Leeds City Council to speak publicly on the subject of "peace education," and then hastily "disinvited" when it was discovered that, on this subject too, his opinions would prove disagreeable to the fascist left.

For Honeyford, "disinvitation" is a common experience. When the students of Oxford Polytechnic invited him to a conference, he was not surprised to receive a letter from the dean of the faculty of educational studies suggesting that "there may be a number of reasons why you might consider it appropriate to decline the invitation"; nor was he surprised when, having expressed his inability to discover such reasons, the conference was cancelled.

Nicholas Timmins reports on government embarrassment over a backbench move to give the disabled their rightful services

A charter for home care

which would ensure that the mentally and physically disabled, the mentally ill, and those who care for them, all had their needs properly assessed. The bill has acquired an impressive range of all-party support.

With the exception of an assessment of carers' needs the bill itself provides no new rights to services for such people. But what it would do - and what frightens the government - is to put effective teeth into the last major piece of legislation in this area, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act of 1970. That established a right to services, from day care for the discharged schizophrenic to telephones for the housebound, bathing aids for the disabled and adult training centre places.

which has expressed the strongest reservations, estimates that a further £25 million a year would be required for assessments and between £50 million and £100 million extra services.

Those who have seen lobbying ministers fear that no extra government money will be forthcoming. Clarke, supported by Tory backbenchers as well as Labour and Alliance, is sticking to his guns.

"We have government statement after statement saying it wants care in the community to develop. Norman Fowler has said no patient should be discharged from a mental hospital to a situation where services do not exist. Yet we all know that is happening. Any administrative difficulties could not doubt be eased. But we must insist that the government makes available the necessary resources to develop proper community care."

While the bill would add to costs, Clarke said, he believed the scale suggested by the government was exaggerated: "In any case they will occur over a period of years, not all at once."

moreover... Miles Kington Spring hopes eternal

Spring, for me, is always heralded by the arrival of the first crocuses on the island round Marble Arch, though heaven knows how they cross the road to get there. But what marks the arrival of spring for other people? We asked a few.

Charles Giltrap, leader of the English rugby pack: "England Must Rethink Approach." That's the headline that always tells me that spring is here. The Five Nations Tournament is over, we've just been thrashed by France again, and the newspapers tell us that we have to run like the French. Terribly unfair, of course, because we do run like the French. The only difference is that they run with the ball, and we just run. But it's always wonderful to play at the Parc des Princes even if you lose, on that wonderful green turf with the first snowdrops poking through, the jasmine twining up the goalposts and lovely fresh fish being sold on the touchline. What? No, of course we won't be rethinking our approach."

Anna Fox-Barry, radical feminist: "I hate spring. Spring is such a sexist season." Well, just think about it - all those green shoots thrusting up through the earth, and the sap rising, and the male birds marking out their territory - well, it just makes me sick. The imagery of spring is all male chauvinism. Which is such a shame, because it should be the season of birth and the cycle of life. This year I am establishing a refuge for battered daffodils, but that is all I am telling you, because I refuse to talk to male journalists who will only make fun of us. Now get out."

Justin Castelo, Rich Young Broker of the Year: "I love spring."

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Salary: (under review) as Senior Crown Prosecutor £13,505-£18,360; as Crown Prosecutor £10,500-£15,000. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 18 April 1986) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G(2)942.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer



SAUDI ARABIA LEGAL ADVISOR c. £40,000 (tax free)

One of the largest private groups in Saudi Arabia, active in commercial, industrial, contracting, servicing and engineering projects, and with major European/US international companies amongst our partners, we are looking for a Legal Advisor for our Corporate Office situated in Jeddah.

The function of this position is to advise and assist senior management, to take full responsibility for legal affairs of Corporate Office, Branches and Subsidiaries and to act as Company Secretary for Group Companies. The successful candidate, probably between 28 and 35, commercially minded and used to operating at board level, will have not less than 5 years relevant experience in industry or with a City law firm.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Additional benefits include free fully furnished accommodation and transport allowance.

Applicants should forward full C.V. with salary details to: Enpro Business Representatives Limited, 7 Old Park Lane, Mayfair, London W1Y 3LJ.

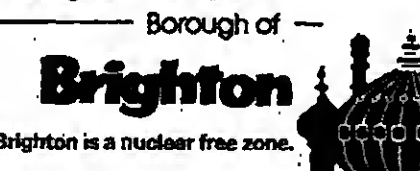


Articled Clerk

Brighton is a busy town which produces a wide range of legal problems for the Council. The Council has the usual district authority functions with a highways agency and interests in the background, commercial airport and passenger transport. It has a large property portfolio and is particularly prominent in the tourism and entertainment field. All this will give an excellent start to an Articled Clerk seeking a career in local government.

Applications are invited from enthusiastic and hardworking graduates who have passed the Law Society's final examinations or who are taking and are confident of passing them this summer. The appointment will be from a date to be agreed and, subject to passing the final examination, will be for a period of 2½ years with a commencing salary of £5,301 rising to £10,308 p.a. upon qualification.

Application form and further details may be obtained from the Borough Secretary, Town Hall, Brighton, BN1 1JA. If you would like to discuss the post please get in touch with his Deputy, Mr. E.A. Davine, on Brighton (0273) 29881, Ext. 414. Closing date: 11th April.



Gabriel Duffy Consultancy

OXBRIDGE MATERIAL? COMPANY/COMMERCIAL CAMBRIDGE

Our clients, a well known Norwich practice, are seeking a specialist company lawyer, trained in the City and with 1-3 years experience to play a major role in the opening of their new office in Cambridge. The right candidate will work on a wide range of high profile matters and can look forward to excellent prospects in this trendy, ever expanding practice.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL and PRIVATE CLIENT OXFORD

A major practice in Oxford is recruiting a Company/Commercial lawyer and a lawyer specialising in private client matters to assist in its Oxford office. Candidates should be 0-2 years qualified and have some City experience, gained either during articles of post qualification. Workload consists of quality cases and the prospects are good.

If you are tired of being crushed between giant entities on the tube and seek a challenging career with the opportunity to work in pleasant surroundings without losing the quality standard or excellent salary these positions are for you.

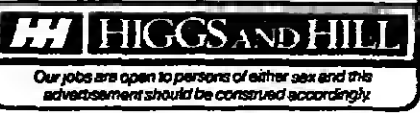
Claire Wiseman - Legal Division
Gabriel Duffy House, 17 St Swithins Lane,
Canon Street, London EC4N 8AL
Tel: 01.623 4295

LAWYER IN CONSTRUCTION

Higgs and Hill PLC, the international building and property group is offering a challenging career within its Commercial Law Department for a solicitor, barrister, or legal executive able to administer litigation and arbitration relating to the construction industry and to advise generally on contract and commercial matters. Reporting to and working closely with the company secretary, himself a solicitor, you should be able to work largely unsupervised and to liaise on a practical day-to-day basis with company secretaries and directors. Experience with the construction/property industry would be an advantage but is not essential for this new post for which an exciting personalty would also be a distinct advantage. The job offers good prospects in a successful and developing group.

Please write enclosing a full curriculum vitae stating current salary to:

R.L. Howard,
Group Personnel Manager,
Higgs and Hill PLC,
Crown House,
Kingston Road,
New Bellingham,
Surrey KT3 3ST,
Phone No. 042 8921 Ext. 2285



Gabriel Duffy Consultancy

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS COMPANY/COMMERCIAL c£30,000

Our clients are recruiting a Company/Commercial Partner for their reputable West End practice. The ideal candidate will have had at least three years City experience and have the drive and initiative to succeed in this fast moving environment.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING £25,000-30,000

A small West End practice is looking for a Commercial Conveyancer with between 4-6 years p.a.t.e. to assist their Senior Conveyancing Partner with the commercial property cases of some major clients. Candidates should have the ability to relate well to clients. Immediate partnership prospects for the right person.

Claire Wiseman - Legal Division
Gabriel Duffy House, 17 St Swithins Lane,
Canon Street, London EC4N 8AL
Tel: 01.623 4295

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LAW SOCIETY

Against the retirement in January 1987 of the present holder of the office, we are seeking a new Secretary-General as senior member of the permanent staff of The Law Society.

The overall challenge facing the man or woman we appoint devolves into three main areas:
On policy the Secretary-General will act as the Society's principal adviser and will both ensure the efficient execution of agreed policies, and propose and formulate new ones for consideration by the Council.

In management terms, the Secretary-General will establish and maintain the machinery whereby every member of the Society's staff understands his or her role in a clearly defined management structure, has clear objectives and workable terms of reference.

Representation will be one of the most important aspects of the role. An acid test of the Secretary-General's effectiveness will be the extent to which Westminster, Whitehall and the media identify with the Society's aims and interests. The Secretary-General will, not infrequently, be the Society's representative in its relationship with the legal and other professions in the United Kingdom and the legal professions abroad.

The brief is an open one and either solicitors or non-solicitors may apply. Our profile of the man or woman we appoint is equally so - private practice, the public sector, industry or commerce could all yield the right experience. Irrespective of background, the new Secretary-General will have to achieve an exceptional grasp of both the law and the working of the profession in order to become the source of the innovative policy initiatives which we seek.

Communications skills and a strong personal 'presence' are essential in someone who will be our advocate in the corridors of power, and our representative in the eyes of the world.

Salary and benefits will confirm that this is indeed an appointment of crucial importance to us. But for the right man or woman, an equally important motivation will be the unparalleled opportunity to make his or her mark both in and on the profession.

Please write with a copy of your cv to the President, The Law Society, 118 Chancery Lane, LONDON WC2A 1PL, before 25th April 1986.



THOMAS EGGAR & SON WEST SUSSEX

PRIVATE CLIENT WORK

Thomas Eggar & Son are looking for an able lawyer who wishes to specialise in tax planning and related trust work. This is a good opportunity for a lawyer with ability and energy to join a busy team based in Chichester. The work is varied and demanding, and requires a basic understanding of, and interest in Capital Transfer Tax, trusts and all aspects of trust taxation.

Please apply with full CV or telephone for an application form to:

The Partnership Secretary
THOMAS EGGAR & SON
EAST PALLANT CHICHESTER WEST SUSSEX PO19 1TS
Telephone (0243) 786111

SWINGLAND & Co

A recently formed City partnership are looking for young, ambitious solicitors to join their small but growing practice in the following areas of law:

COMPANY & COMMERCIAL

- General company work, tax, drafting agreements etc.

COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC CONVEYANCING

- All aspects but in particular increasingly substantial and complex commercial work.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

- High Court litigation and arbitration in commodities, shipping and other areas of commerce; insurance work.

Applicants are expected to have had a minimum of 3 years experience in a City practice and to be capable of acquiring early partnership status.

Apply in writing to:
Guy Dorman
Swingland & Co
20 Cliffoot Street, London EC2A 4BT
or telephone: 01-247 0004

SHOOSMITHS & HARRISON READING

We have three vacancies for solicitors in our Reading office. We are looking for bright responsible lawyers, preferably with experience in a City or large provincial firm.

Company/Commercial. To join an expanding department, handling company, commercial litigation and commercial conveyancing.

Litigation. To take on a wide-ranging caseload in an overworked department. Ability to work under pressure essential.

Conveyancing, Trusts and Probate. To handle domestic conveyancing, as well as more complex trust, probate and tax matters.

Please write or phone D.N. Bromwich, Shoosmiths & Harrison, Compton House, Abingdon Street, Northampton, NN1 2LR (Tel: 0604 29977)

SOLICITOR

GRADE P01 £11,837 p.a. - £12,325 p.a. inclusive. Required for busy Legal Department in a large London Borough to undertake a wide variety of work over the whole field of the Council's functions with emphasis on litigation at all levels including Commercial. Candidates must have a positive and constructive approach and be able to work without supervision and whilst knowledge of Local Government Law would be advantageous, it is not essential. Flextime is worked.

Applicants are invited from anyone for this post, however, applications received from employees of the GLC or MCCS will be given priority.

Application forms quoting reference number LA/14/73X available from the:

Personnel Division, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3UW Telephone: Uxbridge 50589 (24 hour answering service available). Closing date: 11 April 1986
Applicants from ethnic minorities will be encouraged

ADVERTISING CONTINUED ON PAGE 25.

ENPRO

Civil Aviation Authority

BARRISTER OR SOLICITOR

The Civil Aviation Authority invites applications for the post of Assistant Legal Adviser.

Candidates should be Barristers or Solicitors with a good law degree and aged between 25 and 35. Previous experience of civil aviation law is not essential, but experience in the Government legal service could be an advantage. Salary will be within the ranges \$9973-\$17,332 or \$18,162-\$24,135, depending on age and experience.

The Authority is a statutory corporation responsible for the safety and economic regulation of British civil aviation and for air traffic control. In carrying out its licensing functions the Authority is a quasi-judicial tribunal. The Authority has a small but busy Legal Department in Central London. Although its work is primarily concerned with civil aviation it is by no means confined to this and includes the conduct of prosecutions, some civil litigation, drafting of statutory instruments, conveyancing and advising on a wide range of matters relating to civil aviation, the Authority's position as employer, as a party to contracts, etc.

Benefits include over 4 weeks' annual leave, on interest free season ticket loan and an excellent contributory pension scheme. All salaries are subject to an annual review.

Please apply in writing enclosing current CV to Mrs. G. Baker, Personnel Support Services, Civil Aviation Authority, Room 1220, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE.



MOSS TOONE & DEANE LOUGHBOROUGH Assistant Solicitors

We are a large well established practice situated in an expanding and developing market town close to Nottingham, Leicester and Derby we wish to appoint two Assistant Solicitors:-

1. A capable and ambitious solicitor with at least 2-3 years post admission experience. Must be prepared to take all round responsibility and capable of working unsupervised.
2. An enthusiastic well motivated solicitor with approximately 1 years admitted experience (although newly admitted person will be considered). Capable of undertaking all aspects of litigation work (subject to supervision and training where appropriate) including some advocacy and responsibility for the management of debt collection.

There are attractive packages for the right applicants.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Private & Confidential
J. A. Caborn Esq.
Moss Toone & Deane
50-51 Woodgate,
Loughborough
Leicestershire LE11 2XE.

LITIGATOR ADVOCATE 2-3 years post admission. High level work from time to time. Good salary. £12,000-£15,000. Contact: 0933 25185.
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PARTNERSHIP PROSPECTS in a busy City law firm. £25,000-£30,000. Contact: 0933 25185.
ADVOCATE/LITIGATOR solicitor with 10-15 years experience. £25,000-£30,000. Contact: 0933 25185.
BRANCH SOLICITOR young and enthusiastic. £12,000-£15,000. Contact: 0933 25185.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1394.6 (-17.6) FT-SE 100 1663.9 (-24.4) USM (Datastream) 119.28 (-0.06)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4900 (-0.0210) W German mark 3.4039 (+0.0162) Trade-weighted 75.9 (unchanged)

Holidays expansion

International Leisure, the holiday company formerly known as Inasun, is raising £28.3 million by way of a rights issue.

Board switch

Dame Jennifer Jenkins has retired as a non-executive director of J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, after five years on the board.

Stetley up

Stetley, the construction materials and quarries company, made pretax profits of £36.8 million in 1985, up from £32.7 million.

Profit down

Sovereign Oil & Gas yesterday reported a pretax profit of £12.5 million for the year to December, down 31 per cent.

Poor training

Inadequate industrial training was largely to blame for Britain's decline in manufacturing, Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of British Gas, told an Engineering Industry Training Board conference at the weekend.

Barrow climbs

Barrow Hepburn's pretax profits rose from £1.6 million to £2.2 million last year. Turnover was 11 per cent ahead at £45.6 million.

Indicator up

The longer leading indicator for the British economy rose strongly last month, mainly as a result of rising share prices.

Wilkes audit

James Wilkes has had his accounts qualified by the auditors on the grounds that a subsidiary's accounting records did not adequately identify and separately record development expenditure on major projects.

Elders to seek court block on commission disclosures

Elders IDL, the Australian brewery group whose £1.7 billion bid for the food and drink group Allied-Lyons was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in December, yesterday announced that it was going to court to try to prevent the commission disclosing confidential information to Allied-Lyons.

Mr Andrew Cummins, group director of strategy for Elders, said Sir Godfrey believed it was a requirement of natural justice that Allied should understand what Elders was intending to do. Allied had based its defence on the first bid, which no longer existed.



John Elliott: secret tactics at stake

Mr Elliott declared at the time that a bid made in current market conditions would not be successful except at an unrealistic price. Allied's share price eased 8p yesterday to 328p and Elders' closed 5p lower at 168p.

Elders said it was trying to resolve a point of principle and was not trying to get into a fight with the commission. It said it was unprecedented in any leading financial centre in the world that a prospective bidder should be required to disclose his plans to the target company several months in advance.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Opec puts paid to the cheap money mob

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries finally succeeded in getting at Nigel Lawson, but about six days too late. The postponement of the Opec ministerial meeting until April 15, by coincidence the day before the Chancellor's promised major speech on monetary policy, has put a damper on short-term hopes of lower base rates.

The Bank of England, having held back a baying mob of cheap money men at the end of last week, now looks secure with 11.5 per cent base rates at least until the Easter break, and probably until the provisional March money supply numbers on April 9.

Mr Padovan's value as a corporate finance expert is widely acknowledged. In City circles he is accorded much of the credit for building up County Bank's impressive client list in the 15 years he was there as director, chief executive and finally chairman.

MOD contract row flares as Swan Hunter revises offer

Amid a developing row over a £240 million contract for two vessels for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, the Ministry of Defence yesterday delayed a planned announcement on the placing of the order as Swan Hunter, the recently privatized Tyneside shipbuilder, disclosed that it had revised its tender offer.

Swan Hunter, which has given warning that 2,000 jobs could be at risk if it does not win the contract, has re-tendered "at a price we believe is competitive", said Mr Alex Marsh, one of the four joint managing directors at Swan Hunter, which was bought out by management two months ago.

Mr Harland gets the contract its value would spread elsewhere, particularly in Scotland, because a consortium would be involved in fulfilling the auxiliaries contract. The other members of the consortium are Yarrow Shipbuilders and Yard, the leading warship design consultants, both private sector companies operating in the Glasgow area, and Racal Electronics, which is involved in the ship systems.

Discount house mergers threatened

Two planned mergers of discount houses with financial services companies before the big bang in October were thrown into doubt yesterday by a development which took the sector by surprise on the stock market.

The board of Smith St Aubyn announced that it had received a rival offer to that put forward two weeks ago by Irving International Finance Corporation. It has advised shareholders to delay any decision on the Irving terms until details of the new offer have been announced, probably today.

PR groups plan £60m link-up

Addison Page and Chetwynd Streets, two of Britain's leading advertising and public relations groups, yesterday announced a surprise £60 million merger.

BT and Du Pont in joint venture

British Telecom is forming a joint venture with Du Pont, the international chemicals company, to commercially exploit its expertise in optical fibre technology.

Grampian profits leap

Grampian Holdings, the Scottish holding company with interests in transport, clothes retailing, sporting goods and animal medicines, produced better-than-expected pretax profits of £3.4 million in 1985 against £1.7 million in 1984.

Barclays coup

The emerging financial conglomerate, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, has pulled off one of its biggest recruitment coups, yesterday it revealed that it had attracted John Padovan into the fold.

Vinten release

Vinten Group is to pay £1 million to Computing Devices in return for being released from an advanced video recorder development contract placed with the Vinten Avionic Systems.

Bell withdraws BHP offer

Melbourne (Reuters) - Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the chairman of Bell Resources, has declared that he still wants control of Broken Hill Proprietary, which has annual sales of Aus \$8 billion (£3.8 billion), despite withdrawing his takeover bid yesterday.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for Stock Markets, Gold, Currencies, and Interest Rates. Includes data for New York, Tokyo, London, and various exchange rates.

BT and Du Pont in joint venture

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Advertisement for TAP AIR PORTUGAL featuring the text 'BUSINESS IN PORTUGAL MEANS TAP FROM HEATHROW' and an image of a TAP airplane.

TEMPUS

The glory departs from Sovereign

Nobody can be too surprised that Sovereign Oil and Gas will not pay a dividend this year.

At the rights issue in October 1984, the directors declared their intention to pay a dividend for 1985, beginning with an interim at the half-year stage. No interim was paid and, it was announced yesterday, there will be no final either.

Even with oil at under £10 per barrel, Sovereign's 1986 oil production will be roughly equal to last year's. Cash flows, however, are likely to be more than halved.

With the rest of the independent oil sector, Sovereign will scale down its exploration programme, only to find that it is cutting off its nose to spite its face. This is because it has three of a five-year contract still to run on the Sovereign Explorer, a third-generation semi-submersible drilling rig. This is designed for the deep and difficult waters of the northern North Sea, where Sovereign has extensive acreage.

It had intended to use the rig largely for its own operations, but Sovereign can ill afford to look for oil in difficult places, especially as the discoveries will be uncommercial until the oil price recovers significantly.

The next well to be spudded when the weather improves is likely to be a Sovereign well, probably a farm-in. Thereafter, there are no fixed commitments. The company can negotiate a much lower stacking rate if the rig is unempLOYed, but it can do without the cash outflow.

The squeeze on Sovereign's profits will be mitigated by the arrangement with Marathon of the financing of Brae. Only 60 per cent of cash-flows from Brae needs to be used to make interest and principal payments. If there is insufficient cash-flow to pay the interest, it is rolled up into the loan.

While the Brae project looks secure, the rest of Sovereign's interests are in a very different position. The balance of its production comes from units in the Forties and Claymore fields. These were bought with a combination of cash from the rights issue and limited re-

course loans when the oil price was more than twice its present level.

Steelty

Three years ago no one wanted bid from Hepworth Ceramic Holdings galvanised Steelty into a re-orientation which has pushed up its profits from less than £10 million in 1982 to last year's £36.8 million - and that despite the tail-end of the miners' strike which took about £1 million off the 1985 figures.

Construction materials now account for approaching 60 per cent of profits, capital investment has been high over the past two years and net debt is down to 15 per cent of shareholders' funds.

After a sluggish first-half, due to bad weather, profits moved ahead by 20 per cent in the rest of the year and the British operations more than made up the ground lost at half-time. The British brick market declined by about 4.5 per cent, but Steelty claims to have slightly increased its market share.

Indeed, the £12.5 million Parkhouse factory was commissioned and is running at full capacity. Its new range of high-margin, "designer" bricks will be launched next month and the plant's efficiency is such that Steelty should be well placed in a future fall in demand.

In North America, the rationalization at the Canadian distribution business brought a £2 million turnaround into profit and further growth should come through this year now that the number of branches has declined from 57 to 42.

Last year's figures were also helped by more than £1 million off the interest charge and a £1 million increase from the property company. Against this, the 3 per cent drop in turnover was more than accounted for by the Australian operations which were disposed of in 1984 - when they also contributed almost £1 million of profits.

Steelty is now in a mood for further expansion and after several small purchases last year, particularly three quarries in France, the company is keen to flex its acquisitive muscles again.

Yesterday's figures - accurately anticipated by the City - left the shares 6p lower at 460p, at which they are selling at 11 times prospective earnings, assuming profit of £43 million this year. This is comfortably lower than the likes of Tarmac and Redland and bid possibilities are in for nothing.

Most dealers were happy to see what they regarded as a healthy correction to the non-stop advance in share prices. But the mood was not all gloom as illustrated by pockets of interest generated by trading statements, press tips and takeover developments.

Freemans

Freemans, the mail order house, is doing its best to hold on to its newly acquired reputation for growth. Shareholders, who have seen their shares rise from 280p to 414p in just six months, may be tempted to take profits, but there is no hurry.

Yesterday the company announced a 27 per cent increase in profits to £28 million before tax. That disguises a second-half slowdown, but the new level of increase should be sustainable. While retail sales rose by 8.8 per cent last year, mail order sales increased by 10.6 per cent, with Freemans lifting its share of the market to 13.9 per cent.

Freemans has taken business from its rivals by producing new and more specialized catalogues. Together, a 50 per cent-owned associate which trades through co-operatives in shops as well as through its own catalogue, was extremely successful, contributing £1.29 million in its first year. This year's new product is Bymail, a fashion catalogue, for which there are plans for a third outlet next year.

This should keep the momentum going, though much depends on the pattern of consumer spending this year. Below the line, there will again be help from a lower tax charge, though not on the scale of last year, when it benefited from a favourable settlement of a case against the Inland Revenue. Profits after tax rose by 45.6 per cent.

That increase is unlikely to be repeated this year, so there is no reason to expect the shares to outperform by last year's margin of 60 per cent. They are selling on nearly 14 times prospective earnings, which is roughly in line with the other mail order companies and is not over-ambitious.

Among the FT-30 shares, ICI were particularly vulnerable at 967p, down 24p, after an accusation by the Common Market that it was a member

of a European chemical price-fixing ring. Falls elsewhere were mainly between 5p and 12p but banks suffered again with National Westminster down 18p to 897p.

In contrast, P & O rose 7p to 548p in anticipation of good results today; analysts are hoping for profits of around £126 million against £70 million last year. Imperial Group were another to find support at 347p, 4p, awaiting further developments from the takeover front.

Consumer sectors, which have been doing so well since the Budget, fell back over a broad front. Among stores, Burton at 332p, Stylo, 236p, and Gas A, 958p, declined 12p to 240p and press comment lifted Ward White 6p to 296p.

Breweries tumbled behind the lead of Allied Lyons, at 326p down 10p. Builders had Barrat Developments another 10p lower at 130p after disappointing interim profits while Steelty softened 6p to 460p despite a 13 per cent earnings expansion.

Last week's recovery prompted another 15p rise in Bestobell at 304p but Friday's disappointing profits knocked another 12p from Delta Group

at 227p. British Aerospace were flying high at 606p, up 15p. The company, which has won another £70 million Rapier contract from the Government, is set to produce profits in excess of £155 million today.

Among high-technology issues, a 40 per cent profit increase failed to help MEMEC, at 375p down 35p, and Magnetic Materials also disappointed at 85p, down 30p. In contrast, press comment boosted Tunstall Telecom 25p to 330p.

S & W Berisford hardened another 3p to 233p awaiting takeover news. Iceland Frozen Foods added 5p to 559p ahead of today's figures.

Profit-taking lopped 35p off Octopus at 625p and 12p from DRG at 294p but in public relations/advertising sectors Addison Page, at 280p, and Chetwynd Street, at 153p, advanced 30p and 10p on the merger plans.

Low Howard, with figures due tomorrow, climbed a further 15p to 403p while a management shake-up stimulated Saatchi & Saatchi, up 10p to 985p.

Better-than-expected profits failed to support Freemans, at 414p down 10p. BAT Industries gave up 8p to 393p ahead of tomorrow's results.

AGAGROUP: Dividend 4 krona (1.67 krona) for 1985. Sales 9,755 million krona (£912 million), against 5,632 million krona. Consolidated net income 337 million krona (250 million krona).

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY: Nine months to Feb. 28. Pretax profit Aus \$1.55 billion (£742 million), against Aus \$1.03 billion. Sales Aus \$6.53 billion (Aus \$4.98 billion).

JARDINE MATHESON HOLDINGS: Net loss for 1985 HK \$369 million (£23 million), against a loss of HK \$793 million. Turnover HK \$10.50 billion (HK \$8.88 billion). Total dividend unchanged at 10 cents a share.

POSEIDON: Half-year to Dec. 31, 1985. Net profit Aus \$532,000 (£255,000), against Aus \$3.10 million. Turnover Aus \$13.22 million (Aus \$5.91 million). The company is to raise Aus \$14.4 million by a rights issue.

GARFUNKELS RESTAURANTS: Total dividend for 1985 1.3p (0.65p). Turnover £22.7 million (£18.09 million). Pretax profit £3.4 million (£2.1 million). Earnings per share 7.3p (4.6p adjusted).

SEAGRAM CO: Year to Jan. 1986. Sales and other income £2,970.65 million (\$2,821.24 million). Pretax income \$132.64 million (£88 million), against \$157.55 million.

TRINITY INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS: Total dividend for 1985 15p (12.2p). Turnover £83.36 million (£76.32 million). Profit, before tax and extraordinary items, £5.69 million (£6.54 million). Earnings per share 39.3p (34.9p).

THOMAS ROBINSON: No dividend (nil) for 1985. Turnover £10.14 million (£11.37 million). Pretax profit £411,000 (£507,000). Earnings per share 7.3p (9.7p).

GEORGE OLIVER (FOOTWEAR): Total dividend for 1985 9p (8p). Turnover £42.88 million (£38.71 million). Pretax profit £1.65 million (£1.68 million). Earnings per share 22.3p (23.59p).

ASDA PROPERTY: Laing & Cruickshank is to place £9 million first maturing debenture shares, 2011 payable as to £25 per £100 on acceptance and as to the balance by June 9.

CONTROL SECURITIES: For the six months September 30, 1985 there is no dividend. The figures are in £000: Total turnover 4,270 (4,056), cost of sales - property expenses 148 (nil) - property dealing loss 2,066 (3,605 loss), investment dealing 1043 (nil), leasing, investment and other income 402 (nil).

DAVENPORTS: After the extraordinary general meeting the offers for Davenport are unconditional in all respects and will remain open until further notice. The cash alternative closed last Wednesday. Davenport ordinary shares, in respect of which irrevocable undertakings were received by greentail whitley are at a total of 5,040,502 (62.1 per cent).

FROGMORE ESTATES: For the six months December 31 the interim dividend is 1.945p (1.768p). The figures are in £000: Turnover 15,418 (17,073), profit before before tax 5,122 (4,626), tax 1,835 (1,855) and earnings per share 9.5p.

BRENT CHEMICALS: The final dividend is 3.35p (2.75p), making 4.2p (3.5p). The figures are in £000: Sales 53,278 (51,507), profit before interest, tax and extraordinary items 6,279 (5,098), interest payable net 377 (286) pretax profit 5,902 (4,812) and tax 1,925 (1,650).

ASSOCIATED STEEL DISTRIBUTORS: The final dividend is 4p, making 8p (nil) for last year. The figures are in £000: Turnover 60,285 (40,275), profit before tax 2,615 (1,589), tax 929 (312), minority interest credit oil (136) and profit attributable 1,686 (1,141).

HIGHLAND AND LOWLANDS BERHAD: The group's results for the year to December 31, 1985 are as follows: final dividend 8.75 cents, making 15 cents gross (22.5 cents). With figures in \$ millions, turnover was 132,950 (147,781) investment and other income 20,158 (20,997), operating profit 60,590 (80,780) profit of associated companies 69 (nil), pretax profit 60,659 (80,780) (after depreciation and amortization 6,055 (5,536), tax 24,425 (36,343) minority debt 269 (nil) extraordinary 57,467 (48,880) profit attributable 93,432 (43,537).

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Silver lining amid the gloom

The 35-point setback on Wall Street on Friday at the adjournment of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries talks without specific agreement provided reason enough for widespread profit-taking yesterday.

Most dealers were happy to see what they regarded as a healthy correction to the non-stop advance in share prices. But the mood was not all gloom as illustrated by pockets of interest generated by trading statements, press tips and takeover developments.

Gills also resisted the trend with gains of a quarter supported by sterling's relatively steady performance against continental currencies. The Government Broker was able to sell out a tablet issued only on Friday.

The FT-30 index tumbled no fewer than 17.6 points to close at 1394.6 while the more broadly based FT-SE 100 fell even further - 24.4 points - to close at 1663.9.

Oils were predictably flat on the outcome of the Opec discussions. BP lost 17p to 553p while Lamsco dipped 12p to 128p ahead of today's results.

Among the FT-30 shares, ICI were particularly vulnerable at 967p, down 24p, after an accusation by the Common Market that it was a member of a European chemical price-fixing ring.

Falls elsewhere were mainly between 5p and 12p but banks suffered again with National Westminster down 18p to 897p.

In contrast, P & O rose 7p to 548p in anticipation of good results today; analysts are hoping for profits of around £126 million against £70 million last year.

Among high-technology issues, a 40 per cent profit increase failed to help MEMEC, at 375p down 35p, and Magnetic Materials also disappointed at 85p, down 30p.

S & W Berisford hardened another 3p to 233p awaiting takeover news. Iceland Frozen Foods added 5p to 559p ahead of today's figures.

Profit-taking lopped 35p off Octopus at 625p and 12p from DRG at 294p but in public relations/advertising sectors Addison Page, at 280p, and Chetwynd Street, at 153p, advanced 30p and 10p on the merger plans.

Low Howard, with figures due tomorrow, climbed a further 15p to 403p while a management shake-up stimulated Saatchi & Saatchi, up 10p to 985p.

Better-than-expected profits failed to support Freemans, at 414p down 10p. BAT Industries gave up 8p to 393p ahead of tomorrow's results.

AGAGROUP: Dividend 4 krona (1.67 krona) for 1985. Sales 9,755 million krona (£912 million), against 5,632 million krona. Consolidated net income 337 million krona (250 million krona).

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY: Nine months to Feb. 28. Pretax profit Aus \$1.55 billion (£742 million), against Aus \$1.03 billion. Sales Aus \$6.53 billion (Aus \$4.98 billion).

JARDINE MATHESON HOLDINGS: Net loss for 1985 HK \$369 million (£23 million), against a loss of HK \$793 million. Turnover HK \$10.50 billion (HK \$8.88 billion). Total dividend unchanged at 10 cents a share.

POSEIDON: Half-year to Dec. 31, 1985. Net profit Aus \$532,000 (£255,000), against Aus \$3.10 million. Turnover Aus \$13.22 million (Aus \$5.91 million). The company is to raise Aus \$14.4 million by a rights issue.

GARFUNKELS RESTAURANTS: Total dividend for 1985 1.3p (0.65p). Turnover £22.7 million (£18.09 million). Pretax profit £3.4 million (£2.1 million). Earnings per share 7.3p (4.6p adjusted).

In chemicals, Brent added 4p to 149p after a 23p improvement in earnings but lower profits knocked 12p from Hickson International at 416p. Booker rose 10p to 350p ahead of today's figures.

Bumper profits and scrip proposals lifted Gramplan Holdings 15p to 338p. Barrow Hepburn also pleased at 56p, up 4p.

Scattered gains in properties included Bradford at 535p, Warner Estates, 810p, Cardiff, 230p, and Marler Estates, 260p, all between 10p and 25p higher. Adverse comment upset Airken House, at 148p down 10p. Smith St Aohyn improved 3p to 44p on news of another bid approach.

Among overseas banks, Standard Chartered slipped 13p to 544p ahead of today's results with pretax profits expected to exceed £240 million.

In dull insurances, Prudential lost 8p to 884p, also ahead of figures today. In mines, bid speculation faded at Rio Tinto-Zinc, down 15p to 742p.

Templeton (215p) 159 -1
Signaux (101p) 88
Snowdon & B (97p) 117 +3
Spice (80p) 96
Tech Comp (130p) 211
Underwoods (180p) 185 -2
Walcroft (120p) 214 -3
W York Hosp (90p) 78
Wicks (140p) 173 -2

Cullens N/P 75
Hartwells N/P 9
NHW Comp 115 -5
Porter chad F/P 104
Safeway UK 249 +2
Wates F/P 149 -2
Westland F/P 85 -3
(Issua price in brackets).

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THOMAS ROBINSON: No dividend (nil) for 1985. Turnover £10.14 million (£11.37 million). Pretax profit £411,000 (£507,000). Earnings per share 7.3p (9.7p).

GEORGE OLIVER (FOOTWEAR): Total dividend for 1985 9p (8p). Turnover £42.88 million (£38.71 million). Pretax profit £1.65 million (£1.68 million). Earnings per share 22.3p (23.59p).

ASDA PROPERTY: Laing & Cruickshank is to place £9 million first maturing debenture shares, 2011 payable as to £25 per £100 on acceptance and as to the balance by June 9.

CONTROL SECURITIES: For the six months September 30, 1985 there is no dividend. The figures are in £000: Total turnover 4,270 (4,056), cost of sales - property expenses 148 (nil) - property dealing loss 2,066 (3,605 loss), investment dealing 1043 (nil), leasing, investment and other income 402 (nil).

DAVENPORTS: After the extraordinary general meeting the offers for Davenport are unconditional in all respects and will remain open until further notice. The cash alternative closed last Wednesday. Davenport ordinary shares, in respect of which irrevocable undertakings were received by greentail whitley are at a total of 5,040,502 (62.1 per cent).

FROGMORE ESTATES: For the six months December 31 the interim dividend is 1.945p (1.768p). The figures are in £000: Turnover 15,418 (17,073), profit before before tax 5,122 (4,626), tax 1,835 (1,855) and earnings per share 9.5p.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Widespread profit-taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 10. Dealings end March 27. Settlement day, April 1. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total have won outright. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies like Blackwood Lodge, Ash & Lacey, Barlow Rand, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

UNDATED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

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FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

FOODS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

HOTELS AND CATERERS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % P/E.

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Why bank risks off

NEW NA

WSL

© dividend in Ex. all Forecast dividend in Interim period passed. Price at suspension of Dividend and valid account of special payment. Pro-rata figures are Forecast earnings or Ex. other Ex. rights or Ex. form or share split. Tax-free. No significant tax.

Why banks are keeping more risks off their balance sheets

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The banking supervisory machinery in most industrialized countries is grinding into top gear to deal with a problem that only relatively few people can claim to understand fully.

The problem is that of "off-balance sheet risk": how to regulate it and how to evaluate the dangers it throws up in comparison with ordinary banking business.

The arcane nature of much off-balance sheet risk makes the problem of supervision all

Sliding deeper into the bog of international debt crisis

the more complex, but this is no mere sideshow in the mainstream of banking business. Off-balance sheet risk of one sort or another has risen sharply in importance over the past three years.

No reliable figures exist for the City or anywhere else to show exactly how big the business has become. Indeed

the lack of standardized information is one of the chief problems the Bank of England is setting out to tackle.

But it is clear that many banks, large and small, have taken on commitments worth hundreds of millions of pounds which have so far slipped through the supervisors' net.

Off-balance sheet risk comes in many forms but, in general, it involves taking on a commitment rather than making a direct loan. The bank

earns fee income from its clients for taking on the commitment, rather than earning interest as it would from a conventional loan.

The transaction does not, therefore, appear on the bank's balance sheet, but there is undeniably a risk.

The main reasons for the sudden popularity of this business lie in the basic change in banking over the past few years. As banks slid deeper

into the bog of the international debt crisis in the early 1980s, their credit ratings

slipped and clients began to shy away from them.

At the same time the trend towards securitization of debt offered a neat way for corporate customers to bypass bank lending. The only way for the business was to stand in as intermediaries, arranging deals between principals rather than acting directly as lender or borrower.

Many banks may not understand the nature and size of the risks

Bankers have exercised their ingenuity in finding increasingly sophisticated ways of doing this, but supervisors are worried that many banks do not fully understand the nature and size of the risks they are taking.

Take a standby arrangement, for example. Most note

issuance facilities involve paper being issued by a commercial borrower and a guarantee by the bank arranging the deal to provide funds if the liquidity of the paper market dries up.

How often banks will be called on to honour these commitments is not known, but the Bank believes that the risk is greater than, say, with a traditional overdraft.

It remains to be seen what risk-asset weightings the supervisors produce to put beside the weightings laid down for conventional banking business.

It is possible that they will vary from country to country, giving the banks of some countries a competitive advantage, although banking supervisors from the Group of Ten industrialized countries committed themselves in the recent Basle Committee report to a policy of minimizing inequalities.

Whatever the outcome, it will be an important addition to the structure of banking supervision in all Western countries.

Theo-Max van der Boeg
Memorial

A Performance of
"Mozart's Coronation Mass in C (K317)"

will take place at
St. Martin-in-the-Fields
(Trafalgar Square, London)

on Thursday, 10th April, 1986
at 12.30 for 12.45 p.m.

to which all of his friends and colleagues are invited

(For Charity enquiries, please contact Michelle Wayne on 01-600 0844)

Grieverson Grant and Co.
MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE

From Tuesday 1st April 1986 we shall be at

PO Box 560
20 Fenchurch Street
London EC3P 3DB

Telephone: 01-623 8000

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At last some help for the hard pressed Imperial shareholder. Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of each of the offers for your company. In order to be perfectly fair, the values we've quoted are based on the best possible offers.

HANSON BID WORTH:

367.2 P.

UNITED BISCUITS BID WORTH:

330.7 P.

HANSON BID BETTER BY:

+ 36.5 P.

Figures based on the market prices at 5.59pm on Monday.

NEW NATIONWIDE RATES FROM APRIL 1ST 1986

SHARE ACCOUNTS & CASHBOOSTER FLEXACCOUNTS	6.00% net
£1-£1,999	6.25% net
£2,000 plus	8.00% net
BONUSBUILDER ACCOUNTS	7.00% net
£100-£499	7.75% net
£500-£1,999	8.00% net
£2,000-£4,999	8.25% net
£5,000-£9,999	8.50% net
£10,000 plus	8.50% net
CAPITAL BONDS (26TH ISSUE)	8.50% net
The rate of interest on all existing Capital Bonds will be decreased by 1.00% from 1 April 1986. The guaranteed extra interest paid on all existing Capital Bonds continues unchanged.	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	5.75% net
OTHER INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS	
The rate of interest paid on all other investment accounts except Treasurers Accounts will be decreased by 1.00% from 1 April 1986.	
MORTGAGES: NEW ADVANCES	12.00%
The rate of interest charged on all mortgages for new owner occupier borrowers is 12.00%.	
MORTGAGES: EXISTING	12.00%
The rate of interest charged on all mortgages for owner occupier borrowers will be 12.00% from 1 April 1986 and the lower level of repayments will apply from that date.	

NEW RATES Nationwide

Nationwide Building Society, New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC2V 6PW

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:
Box No.
Co/Times Newspapers,
P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street,
LONDON E1 9XN

HANSON TRUST CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

The values of Hanson Trust's and United Biscuits' offers depend on their respective share prices. The above offer values are for Hanson Trust's Share and Convertible Stock Election and United Biscuits' Offer. The offer values take account of estimates by Hoare Green Ltd. of the values of the relevant ordinary share prices, of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson and the convertible preferred shares of United Biscuits.

IMI in 1985

A record year

Profits up 28% to £57.8m
Earnings up 39% to £40.1m
Dividend up 16.7% to 5.25p
Net borrowings down by £31m

Sir Robert Clark, Chairman, reports on an encouraging year.

"Our sales, pre-tax profits, return on assets and earnings per share are all records for the Company.

"Margins, at the pre-tax stage, were up overall from 4.7 per cent in 1983 and 6.1 per cent in 1984 to 7.5 per cent.

"Of our total sales, 52.6 per cent were made in the UK, 16.1 per cent by export from the UK and 31.3 per cent from overseas manufacture.

"We achieved the greatest improvement in refined and wrought metals, and two activities were primarily responsible: IMI Refiners and titanium, where turnover and product mix benefited from a substantial uplift in aerospace demand which seems set to continue for at least two or three years.

"In fluid power we made further progress on the excellent performance reported in 1984. Our general engineering and building products activities also did significantly better, as did heat exchange.

"In special-purpose valves our advance was more modest, but we were encouraged by some upturn towards the year-end. Only in drinks dispense were we unable quite to match last year's record figures, but the outcome was by no means unsatisfactory, and our confidence of future profits growth from this sector remains high.

"Our employees throughout the world have put a great deal of effective and dedicated work into achievement of these figures, and I express the Board's gratitude to them all.

"The current year has started well in most of our business areas, and I am confident of our ability to build further on our recent success."

Summary of results	1985	1984
	£m	£m
Turnover	766.2	737.9
Trading profit	63.7	52.6
Profit before taxation	57.8	45.1
Earnings applicable to shareholders (excluding extraordinary items)	40.1	28.9
Earnings per share (excluding extraordinary items)	14.9p	10.7p
Dividend per share	5.25p	4.5p

The Annual Report, which contains a comprehensive review of IMI's activities will be published on 24th April. If you would like a copy please complete the coupon:

To: The Secretary, IMI plc, P.O. Box 216, Birmingham B6 7BA.

Please send me a copy of the Annual Report.

Name: _____
Address: _____

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities of WSL Holdings plc.

WSL HOLDINGS PLC

(Incorporated in England with registered No. 222271)

Introduction of
17,921,046 new ordinary shares of 5p each of WSL Holdings plc

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the share capital of WSL Holdings plc, issued and to be issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

Listing Particulars will be circulated in the Extel Statistical Services and copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday, except Saturdays and public holidays up to and including 15th April, 1986, from:

WSL Holdings plc,
8 & 9 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London WC2A 3DW

Lloyds Merchant Bank Limited,
40-66 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4P 4EL

L. Messel & Co.,
P.O. Box 521, 1 Finsbury Avenue,
London EC2M 2QE

Copies of the Listing Particulars will also be available until 27th March, 1986 from the Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, London EC2P 2BT.

25th March, 1986

IMI means more than metal

BUILDING PRODUCTS HEAT EXCHANGE DRINKS DISPENSE FLUID POWER
SPECIAL-PURPOSE VALVES GENERAL ENGINEERING REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

COMMODITIES REVIEW

By Michael Prest

Faith keeps the sugar price sweet

"Anticipation" the wise man said, "is enough to keep the market brewing lightly." Although it was not tea he had in mind the metaphor was more or less apt because we were talking about sugar. Since the beginning of the year sugar prices have risen by more than two cents to all of 7.5 cents a pound.

Sugar cycles are believed to run over six years from trough to peak. The last two bull markets conveniently reached their climax in 1974 and 1980. Perhaps the number of years into a feast, but the logic is reasonable. Expanding or reducing the volume of any crop takes time, including the realization by farmers, refiners, governments, traders and consumers that prices are too high or too low for their particular needs.

By way of a diversion, one might speculate about the same phenomenon in other farm commodities. Wheat is cheap cocoa is middling, and coffee expensive. These very different foods do not necessarily have the same cycle, of course. But the fact that their prices are rising, could rise soon or are not bad suddenly makes the gloomy talk of all these bear markets a little less depressing. Perhaps the next couple of years will not be so grim for primary producers after all.

Anyway, back to sugar. Within the six-year cycle even longer term trends are evident. Consumption in developed countries is static or falling, partly because of slow population growth, but also because of taste and price changes which have favoured either artificial sweeteners or fewer sweeteners altogether.

Consumption in developing countries has been restrained by the slump and until recently by the strong dollar. It is noticeable that the increase in consumption over the past 15 years from 76 million tonnes to a forecast 98 or 99 million in 1985-86 decelerated sharply after 1983-84.

Nevertheless, there is immediate evidence for a price rise this year. The analyst agrees that there is likely to be a supply shortfall - the first since 1980. The deficit will be a modest one million tonnes and stocks of 39 million tonnes will still represent 40 per cent of annual consumption.

The stocks seem high, but analysts are always a little sceptical about their own stock figures. The initial reports on which the statistics are based are unreliable and some of the stored sugar may not be suitable for consumption.

The key here is production. The long-term factor is the slow adjustment of output to low prices. Nobody can make money from sugar at less than 12-14 cents a pound, and even then only the very cheapest would survive - for example, some parts of Brazil. At the less than 3 cents prevailing last year - probably the lowest real prices ever - it was inevitable that farmers would start to grow less sugar. Production is likely to be lower in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Argentina, the Philippines and South Africa.

In some instances special forces are at work. A combination of drought and Hurricane Kate cut the Cuban crop from eight million tonnes to between six and seven million. Cuba will have to find on the open market the difference which it is committed to sell to customers, and that is an important source of the anticipation in the trade.

Advertisement for Freemans PLC. Includes text: "52 weeks ended 25 Jan '86", "Sales £410m up 14%", "Profit before tax £28m up 27%", "Earnings per share 24.8p up 45%", "Final dividend proposed 4-7p", "Total dividends for year up 27%". Also features a photo of a man and the text "Another year of strong growth expanded our share of the market and continued the improvement in profitability".

But such accidents always happen, and not all are accidents. Even the acreage sown in the European Community is forecast to fall by 2-3 per cent as the less generous sugar regime begins to change farmers' views about the profitability of the market. Governments simply cannot continue to protect their national sugar industries indefinitely when production costs are a sizeable multiple of freely traded prices.

The process, however, is only just beginning. One analyst said: "Real structural change is not yet with us." Yet the anticipation of such change is encouraging the market. A price of 8 or 9 cents is conceivable if towards the end of the year the 1986-87 statistics also look favourable.

Enter faith. Will producers continue to cut back? Have governments really learned the lesson? Will better prices only generate new production? In short, could this cycle, starting from so humble a base, be aborted?

One must fear that all of these things are possible. The best hope is that production costs go on rising, and that a weaker dollar will mean lower local currency earnings.

After all, 8 cents is still very cheap - which itself is encouraging speculation by investors and commission houses - and real returns on capital employed in the industry are elusive in many parts of the world. If farmers do indeed manage to restrain themselves the light brew could come to an all-out boil.

DRG: Mr Ian Lawrie has been made a director. W.H. Smith & Son (Holdings) Lord Windlesham becomes a non-executive director from April 1. Norman Broadbent International: Mr T G Parry Rogers has joined the board as a non-executive director. Ship Mortgage Finance Co (SMFC): Mr Roger Hoppe has been appointed to the board. Hiram Walker International: Mr Richard Watling is the new director of marketing. Hambros Bank: Mr Edward Adeane has been appointed a director. Robertson Research International: Mr David Keith and Mr David Wilson have joined the RRI board and that of Robertson Research Petroleum Services. Datron International: Mr David Metcalfe has been appointed director of corporate development. Sentinel Life: Mr Michael Reid has been appointed executive chairman, Mr Ian Waddell managing director and Mr Keith Furniss sales and marketing director. Harris/3M Document Products Incorporated: Mr

Bar fees case adjourned for timetable to be agreed

Regina v Lord Chancellor, Ex parte Alexander. Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Boreham and Mr Justice Taylor (Proceedings March 24).

On the Lord Chancellor's application, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court granted an adjournment until Wednesday of the Bar's application (The Times March 21, 22) for a declaration that the Lord Chancellor's decision to increase by no more than 3 per cent fees payable to barristers for criminal legal aid was unlawful.

Mr Sydney Kenridge, QC, Mr Thomas Morison, QC, Mr Nicholas Underhill and Mr George Leggett for Mr Robert Scott Alexander QC, Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales, and Mr Nicholas Phillips, QC and Mr John Laws for the Lord Chancellor.

Mr Phillips expressed the parties' gratitude to their Lordships for the opportunity for a view to agreeing a binding timetable for completing the remaining stages of the Bar's claim.

The Lord Chancellor would like to agree to this but he needs first to consult with his colleagues because the timetable for his final decision will include a date which could have implications for public expenditure.

"We would respectfully invite your Lordships to grant a further adjournment until Wednesday morning, March 27, 1986, for the necessary consultations which the Lord Chancellor will commence immediately."

Mr Kenridge: "As the Lord Chancellor wants the adjournment for that purpose, obviously can have no objection to it."

"We, that is, the Bar, have indeed proposed a fairly detailed timetable for negotiations. It would not be right for me at this stage to read it out and I do not propose to do so. But we had thought that, perhaps, it should be in your hands."

The Lord Chief Justice: "I think we should prefer to know nothing about it for the time being."

Mr Kenridge: "As your Lordships' comments on Friday, discussions have taken place between the parties with a view to agreeing a binding timetable for completing the remaining stages of the Bar's claim."

When the clerk of the adjudicator had given the service notice that the appeals would be heard on November 26, 1984, the respondents had requested an oral hearing of the appeals.

The respondents, on hearing subsequently of their dismissal of the appeals, had sought judicial review of the adjudicator's decision.

Rule 12 provides: "An appellate authority may determine an appeal without a hearing if - (a) the parties to the appeal have requested a hearing; ... or (c) the appellate authority is satisfied that the appellant is outside the United Kingdom or that it is impracticable to give him notice of a hearing and, in either case, that no person is authorized to represent him at a hearing; ..."

Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr John Laws for the appellant, Mr Charles Fletcher, Cooke, QC and Mr George Warr for the respondents.

LORD SCARMAN said that the respondents came from Iran. Their original leave to enter and stay had been extended to September 2, 1980, but the secretary of state had refused a further extension of leave.

His notice of refusal had informed the respondents that they had a right of appeal to an adjudicator and that they might, if they wished, seek advice from the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service, a voluntary organization independent of the Government, but recognized by statute and funded from public resources.

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Because of the importance of the point, the House of Lords had given the adjudicator leave to appeal.

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Michael Reid. Hawker Siddeley: Mr W J Richardson has been made managing director of Haddon-Oldham and chairman of Crompton Batteries, Oldham Batteries, Tungstone Batteries and KW Battery. John Mowlem & Co: Mr David Porter joins the board from April 8.

Bestwood: Dividend for 1985 maintained at 6p. Turnover £9.58 million (£8.59 million). Pretax profit £263,000 (£244,000). Earnings per share 12.8p (12.5p).

Armitage Brothers: 28 weeks to Dec. 14, 1985. Turnover £9.58 million (£8.59 million). Pretax profit £263,000 (£244,000). Earnings per share 12.8p (12.5p).

Reliable Properties: Half-year to Dec. 31, 1985. Interim dividend 1.25p (1.25p). Turnover £1.25 million (£1.25 million). Pretax profit £252,000 (£278,000). Earnings per share 6.3p (10.9p).

Muirhead: The board has decided to propose early repayment of the 7 1/2 per cent debenture stock, 1983/93, at plus accrued interest. Some £479,335 of the stock is outstanding.

George Ingham & Co: Total dividend for 1985 raised from 1p to 1.5p. Turnover £3.9 million. Pretax profit £115,000 (£86,000).

Phillips Lamps: The company and Du Pont have finalized the agreements involving the formation of their 50/50 joint venture on optical storage media. Phillips and Du Pont Optical is expected to have annual sales approaching £1 billion (£667 million) within five years.

Systems Designers: Following the merger with Warrington Associates in 1985, \$4 million (£2.67 million) - the maximum amount of deferred consideration under the terms of the agreement - is due to the vendor, E. L. Warrington. It will be satisfied by about \$2 million in cash and \$2 million in ordinary shares.

Spang Holdings: The company is to raise £1.26 million, 7 per cent convertible redeemable preference shares at par.

Adjudicator erred in disposing of appeal without a hearing

Regina v Immigration Appeal Adjudicator, Ex parte Rahmani and Others. Before Lord Scarman, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Roskill, Lord Templeman and Lord MacKay of Clashfern (Speeches said March 20).

A letter from the United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service stating that they had no further instructions from the respondents and no knowledge of their whereabouts did not justify the adjudicator in determining the respondents' appeals without a hearing under rule 12 of the Immigration Appeals (Procedure) Rules (SI 1972 No. 649).

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the adjudicator, Mr C. E. Diggins, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Parker) (1985 QB 1109) affirming Mr Justice Taylor's order for judicial review of the adjudicator's decision dismissing appeals by the respondents, Mrs Mahnaz Rahmani and her two children, from the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Home Department of an extension of their leave to stay in the United Kingdom.

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Advertisement for Frogmore Estates PLC. Includes text: "Interim Statement of Results - 6 months to 31 December 1985", "FROGMORE ESTATES PLC", and a table of financial results comparing 6 months to 31 Dec 85 and 6 months to 31 Dec 84. Also includes highlights from the Chairman's statement and contact information for Frogmore Estates PLC.

Advertisement for 1985 Clarets. Includes text: "1985 CLARETS", "We are currently offering the following 1985 Clarets for sale 'en primeur' (ex cellars Bordeaux)", and a list of agents: Ch. Lanessan, Cussac, Fort Medoc, Ch. Les Ormes de Pez, St. Estephe, Ch. Gloria, St. Julien, Ch. de Camensac, St. Laurent, Ch. St. Pierre, St. Julien, Ch. Haut Batailly, Pauillac, Ch. Lynch-Bages, Pauillac, Ch. Coud'Estournet, St. Estephe, Ch. La Gaffeliere, St. Emilion, Ch. Gazin, Pomerol.

No power to review judge's order. Regina v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Raymond. Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Webster (Judgment given March 18). Orders made by a crown court judge that an indictment should lie on the file not to be proceeded with without the leave of that court or of the Court of Appeal, were orders affecting the conduct of the trial and accordingly the Queen's Bench Divisional Court had no jurisdiction to review the decision to make such an order under section 29(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Highway that is not a road is a 'road' within the statute. LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that the defendant had conceded that the route he took was a highway. The definition of "road" in section 196(1) was any highway and any other road to which the public had access. That did not mean that a highway also had to be a road within the ordinary meaning of the word.

Intolerable burden on tribunal. Baron v Secretary of State for Social Services. Where a medical appeal tribunal had to assess the degree to which the pain and discomfort which the applicant suffered impaired his mobility, for the purpose of determining whether he was entitled to mobility allowances, it would be an intolerable burden if it had to make specific findings about the distance which he could walk and the amount of pain which caused him to stop walking.

Marriage can be treated as binding. Seray-Warrie v Seray-Warrie. Where the validity of a marriage was in dispute the judge could for the purposes of an application for interlocutory relief under the Matrimonial Homes Act 1983, treat the marriage as binding until the contrary was shown when the issue was properly determined by the court.

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Intolerable burden on tribunal. Baron v Secretary of State for Social Services. Where a medical appeal tribunal had to assess the degree to which the pain and discomfort which the applicant suffered impaired his mobility, for the purpose of determining whether he was entitled to mobility allowances, it would be an intolerable burden if it had to make specific findings about the distance which he could walk and the amount of pain which caused him to stop walking.

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Marriage can be treated as binding. Seray-Warrie v Seray-Warrie. Where the validity of a marriage was in dispute the judge could for the purposes of an application for interlocutory relief under the Matrimonial Homes Act 1983, treat the marriage as binding until the contrary was shown when the issue was properly determined by the court.

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

Success in Europe for Silicon Alley

By Richard Sarson
Robb Wilmot's new chip-making company, ES2, European Silicon Structures, was looking for a work station of the right power to run its silicon design software at the least cost.



Robb Wilmot: Prospects in London's East End

It has found one in London's East End, Silicon Alley perhaps, at a company called Whitechapel Computer Works. The software will also be British written by Edinburgh-based Lattice Logic. But perhaps most important the ES2 connection will launch Whitechapel into Europe. Only a three-year-old company, it is only just dipping its toe into foreign markets and this collaborative deal could make Whitechapel the European leader for chip design work stations. It could do the same for Lattice Logic.

This catalytic effect on young companies was always one of the side effects Robb Wilmot hoped for in setting up ES2. Its corporate investors are Olivetti from Italy, Philips from Holland, Bull from France, Sab-Scaania from Sweden, Brown Boveri from Switzerland, Telefonica from Spain and British Aerospace.

As well as money, these companies will provide ES2 with technical help and they are also likely to be Wilmot's first customers. So it is difficult to see how he can lose. They, too, are likely to gain technically and financially from the ES2 connection.

A notable absentee from the corporate backers is ICL, Wilmot's old company. This was partly because STC, ICL's parent, is in the custom chip business itself. And, in its present financial state, STC does not have much spare cash to invest. It will miss the catalytic effects.

Mr Wilmot has tried to give his company a European, rather than a national legal identity, but found that, despite 30 years of trying, the EEC has not succeeded in creating a legal framework for a European company. So he did the next best thing, to incorporate the holding company in the smallest EEC country, Luxembourg, the seat of the European Court of Justice.

He has spread the company's resources evenly-handedly around Europe. The head office is in Munich, presided over by a Frenchman, the managing director, Jean Luc Grand-Clement. Production of the chips will be at a silicon foundry in Aix-en-Provence - a prudent move, as French governments tend to demand production facilities in France, before they open up their public sector markets. The design department will be at Bracknell, reflecting Britain's pre-eminence in European software. As well as designing and making customised chips, ES2 will franchise other silicon foundries around Europe, and will supply the hardware and software tools to small and medium companies so that they can set up their own design departments. The whole purpose of ES2 is to give Europe the tools to cut down the time to design and make small batches of chips from 16 weeks to two to four weeks. It will not just be ES2 who will learn these new techniques. They will teach the whole electronics industry across Europe.

They have already won two customers in Belgium. All this has been achieved since last September, outpacing the politicians and Eurocrats, who have spent the winter agonising endlessly and fruitlessly about the structure and funding of Eureka. Mr Wilmot is showing that Europe is to be built by businessmen, not ideologists.

New dangers in US pact

The computer industry is preparing itself to shoulder much of the costs which are expected to accrue from the worldwide rise in the price of microchips. The anticipated escalation in price will result from an agreement which last week was in the final stages of being struck between the American suppliers of semiconductor and their Japanese equivalents.

That agreement stems from the Americans' obsession with cheap Japanese imports and the Japanese attempt to cater to the US paranoia in the event that the alternative would be protectionism.

The irony is that the effects of this, the "semiconductor accord" will be felt as much by the US computer and electronics industries as by the Japanese.

The war between the US and Japan over semiconductors is almost 10 years old and the US chip makers have lobbied hard in the last year to ensure government support in their attempt to exert pressure on the Japanese. Japan, the manufacturers claim, have been dumping microchips on the US market by selling them at less than cost. Two weeks ago the US companies had their first significant victory with the Commerce Department imposing a duty on memory microchips imported from Japan. That duty ranged from 20 to 300 per cent.

The manufacturers have been seeking a better long-term solution than the imposition of duties, particularly one which will give the industry more stability. The fierce price war in microchips during the last two years, precipitated by overproduction of components because anticipated growth in the computer market was never realised, scared the semiconductor makers.

Many of the principal suppliers

suffered a substantial drop in sales, had to cut their production, lay off workers and close factories. Such unpleasanties have made the semiconductor manufacturers very nervous.

The spiral continued with the computer suppliers savagely cutting prices both in Europe and the US in an attempt to keep market share. Consequently the component suppliers were under more pressure to cut prices.

The stakes are high. Between them the US and Japanese manufacturers supply more than 90 per cent of the world microchips. Texas Instruments, Motorola, National Semiconductor and Intel are in the top 10 and do battle with

will have on the economy may not be the one they seek. The agreement would undoubtedly seek to try and provide a method by which US microchips can penetrate the closed Japanese market. The Americans would seek to benefit through such an agreement by having their components in the many Japanese products invading the US and European markets.

The reality is likely to be quite different. A similar deal was struck about three to four years ago between the Japanese and the Americans on telecommunications equipment supply. That deal, applauded by many on both sides of the Pacific as revolutionary, was not worth the paper on which it was written.

The Americans also have to attract Japanese companies to trade. The Japanese very rarely buy non-Japanese products and invariably only do when there is no Japanese equivalent. Sadly the only way for the Americans or any other nation to fight such attitudes effectively is to convince their home markets to behave similarly.

But the biggest danger to the American economy may be posed not by the supposed Japanese dumping but through the pact formed with the Japanese. The Americans have long prided themselves on a free market economy. The US-Japan agreement could stifle such new businesses by ensuring that only the big boys who are members of the club and can play the microchip manufacturing game.

With little difficulty one might describe such an agreement as the foundations of a cartel. No doubt there'll be someone from the computer world who might see it that way and uphold another American tradition - test it in court. Beware microchip suppliers, the new dangers may be worse than the old.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

NEC, Hitachi, Toshiba and Fujitsu. The only European in the same class is Philips.

Dr Robert Noyce, the pioneer of microchip design and vice-chairman/co-founder of Intel, has been fighting for a decade allegedly unfair Japanese practices in the US and his views epitomise the fears of the US microchip industry. In a recent published interview he said: "We've been working on this problem since 1977. We have spent a disproportionate amount of time and treasure trying to figure out how to ward off a trade war with Japan while preserving our viability."

Dr Noyce and many other industrialists consider the protection of the home semiconductor market as vital to the US economy.

But the effect that such an agreement

Good news for printer in software bridges

By Mike Gerrard
The good news for publishers and printers when writers started using word-processors was that bulky, untidy manuscripts could be done away with and it became possible to edit and typeset direct from disks.

The bad news, as it usually is when you start dealing with computers, was incompatibility. Fine if printer, publisher, and author all have, say, an IBM-compatible personal computer and a copy of Wordstar, but if the author has used a different piece of word-processing software, then it is no good printer or publisher trying to load it into their own machine using Wordstar, as the software will not recognise it.

You could go out and buy the same piece of software, but with a hundred word-processing programs for PC machines alone, this could prove a pretty costly and complicated solution in the long run. And what do you do if your writer does not have a PC machine, but perhaps uses a BBC, an Apricot, or the Amstrad PCW? Do you try to cope equally well with 5 1/4-inch disks, 3 1/2-inch disks, and 3-inch disks?

Wherever there is an incompatibility problem, however, be it marriages or micros, there is usually money to be made by anyone prepared to take the trouble to solve it, and in this case it is a company called InterMedia from Lewes in East Sussex, whose Multi Media Converter is now turning over more than £1 million a year for them, not just from publishers and printers, but from banks, government departments, software houses and other organisations, both here and abroad.

The heart of the system is a Zenith Z-100 which in addition to 3 1/2-inch disks can be adapted to take 3 1/2-inch, 3-inch and 8-inch disks, as well

as half-inch, 9-track magnetic tape. Having connected the hardware, the software allows you to load in any one of 540 different disk or tape formats, from an ABC to a Zilog, with new formats being added on a quarterly basis.

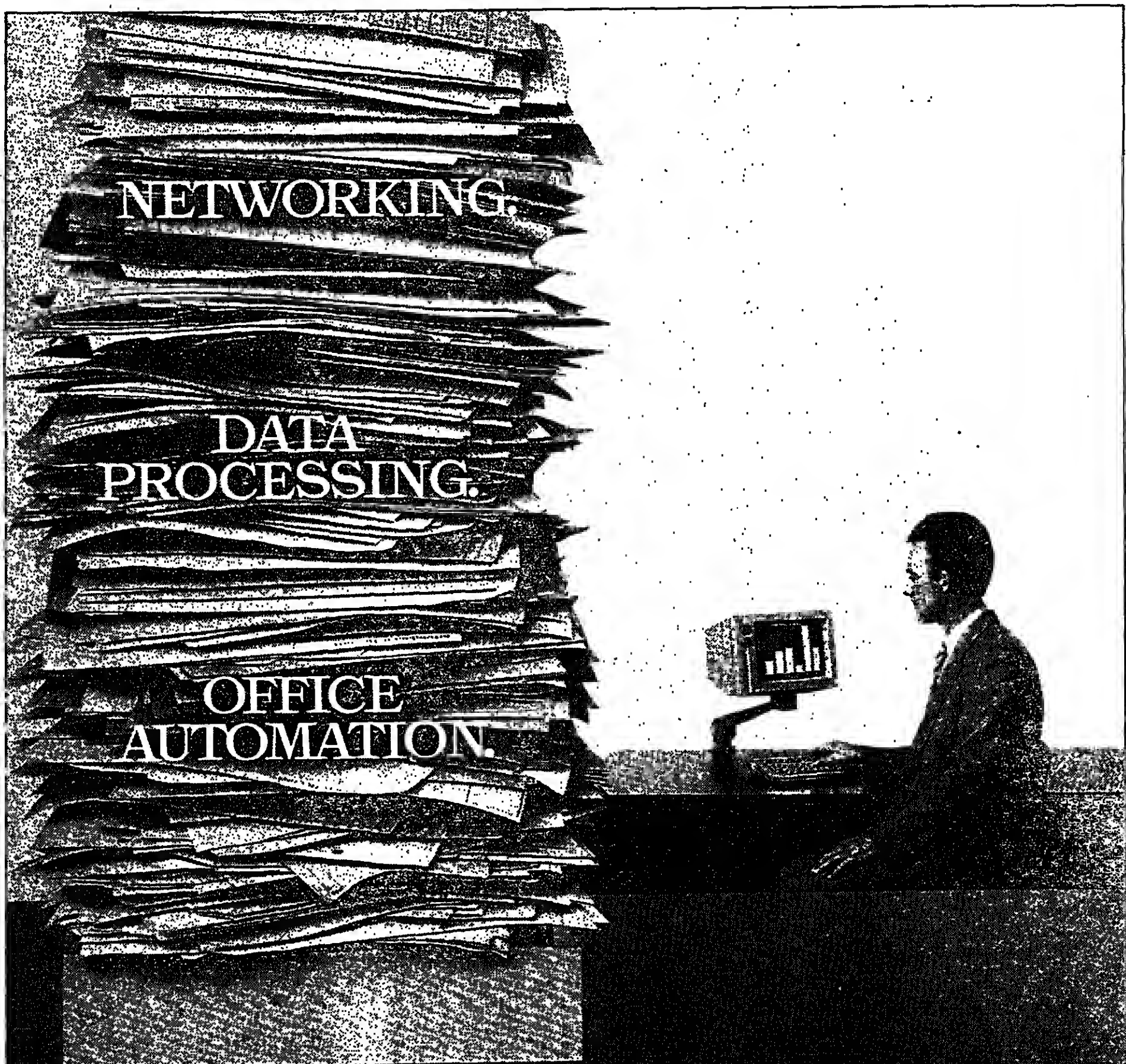
As well as more popular systems like Apples, IBMs, and DEC machines, it also includes options for files produced on the likes of BBCs, Triumph Adlers, and Silver Reeds.

The software recognises all the codes used in the various systems, and therefore allows the user to load in material and have it displayed cleanly on the screen rather than as a jumble of illegible garbage. Provided a publisher's editor was familiar with the word-processing the file was written under, it could then be edited on-screen and returned to the author for approval or passed direct to the typesetters.

If the typesetters themselves were not able to set the material from the format originally used by the author, then the Multi Media Converter allows the editor to download the material on to any of the other formats and disk sizes available.

The system is not just of use to publishers and printers, however. Software houses can readily convert programs from one format to another, while two of Sweden's big three banks are using the system to make it easier to deal with automated payments from a large range of customers.

InterMedia offers a conversion service - useful if you are thinking of up-dating your system, and will therefore need to convert all your files to go with it. MultiMedia is not cheap at £10,000-plus for the basic hard disk version with no fills, but there is never any good news without bad news, is there?



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COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

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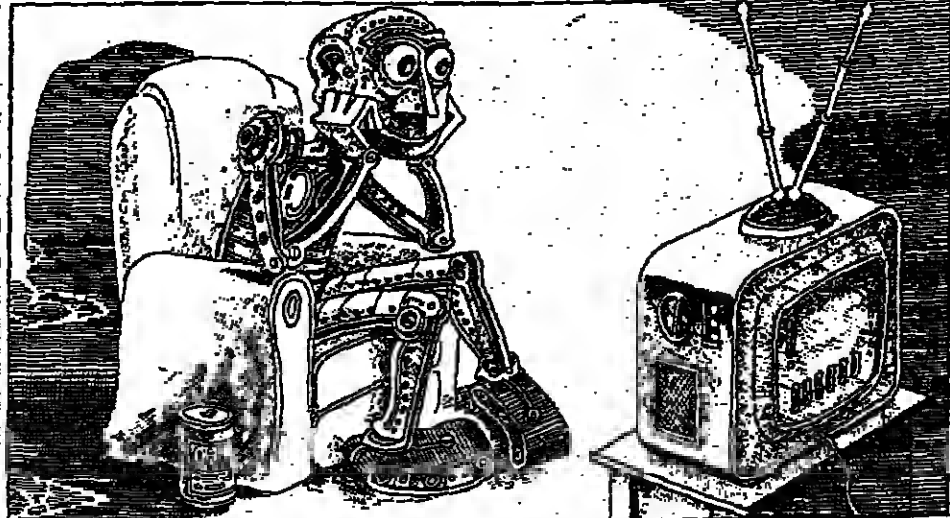
Keeping accounts within the law.

This week's Workshop looks at exemption from the Data Protection Act, when networks will improve the cost of development staff and artificial intelligence. Hedley Vaysey will answer questions in this column on any aspect of business or personal computing. Write to Workshop, Computer Horizons, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1.

Our accounts data use gives the firm exemption from registration under the Data Protection Act. However, our new computers may use some sales accounts data to do mailing, so I am told. I believe that this will mean that registration should be made. Is this true? Yes, it is also doubtful if exemption applies. Are you sure that even the current sales accounts data is never used to suggest that calls are made on particular accounts to generate business? Any use for marketing purposes removes the exemption. At £22 for a three-year period of registration, the cost of keeping clear of committing a criminal offence is not high. To be sure of registering properly it is useful to obtain the "guidelines" published by the Office of The Data Protection Registrar. There is also a very simple booklet which answers questions such as the one you have raised, which is titled Questions and Answers on the Act.

WORKSHOP

Our experience of connecting different systems has been frustrating. Eventually the networks can be made to function, but often rather poorly. When will things improve? The satisfactory networking of particular computer packages is unpredictable. The urge to change this is now creating new businesses to deal with the problem. The National Computing Centre and the National Physical Laboratory are trying to pin down what works properly and under what conditions. The Networking Centre, near Slough, is already in operation with advice. It will shortly be doing strict testing for many local network configurations. In the United States the main computer suppliers, including IBM, are funding jointly a Corporation for Open Systems which aims to speed up the arrival of practical interworking between



A robot like Jeeves

By Martin Banks News is coming out of California that could herald the first glimmerings of real robots, rather than the poor and inept attempts at the genre that have so far appeared. Circuit chips that can process sight and sound in much the same way as the human brain are now in the offing. The chips are the product of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena by Professor Carver Mead, one of the pioneers of VLSI (Very Large Scale Integration) circuit design. This is the black art of getting an amazing amount of electronic circuitry packed into an infinitesimally small space. His latest efforts are part of a long-running project to examine and develop alternative methods of computing. The way that computers currently operate is based around a central processor which controls all the actions the system takes. Though satisfactory for processing numbers and text, it soon becomes woefully inadequate when trying to do anything more complicated. Professor Mead's chips are part of a new attempt being

Hi-tech launch at the Kremlin

The Kremlin is setting up a computer ministry in a bid to accelerate production and catch up with the West's huge lead. The Politburo decision, published in the Moscow press, said that the aim is to double the production of big computers by 1990 and to make personal computers widely available. The move is the latest of a series of measures ordered by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to shake up the industry and to redress the imbalance between the Soviet Union and the West. Three institutes have already been formed - in cybernetics, data processing and micro-electronics - to study how to speed up the process. Guri Marchuk, chairman of the state committee for science and engineering, said earlier this month that the Soviet Union would produce millions of computers in the coming years. A major programme had been launched to develop micro-computers, particularly in teaching, he said, without giving further details. The politburo decided in March last year to introduce mandatory computer classes in all schools, but since this was put into effect in September there have been major logistical problems. A delegate to the recent Communist party congress said there were only 50 computers available for four million young people in Uzbekistan. The authorities planned in the short term to instal 155,000 micro-computers in schools, but there are a total of 100 million pupils in Soviet schools. Local officials are already on record as saying that computers are being wasted because there were no sufficiently qualified people to operate them correctly. An official in Armenia said the republic had 170 computers but there was no coherent system of operating them. (AFP)

Practical aid for the professionals

The Data Protection Registrar is preparing to send out 26,000 information packs to lawyers and accountants in public practice to help them when advising clients about the Data Protection Act. Under the Act all existing computer uses of personal information must be registered by May 11 this year. So far the vast majority of companies have yet to register and the registrar Eric Howe warns: "Unfortunately the exemptions are being misinterpreted. Many data users do not appreciate that the exemptions are likely to apply in very few cases." Computers used only for personal, family or household affairs are exempt but anyone who uses computers to process information about individuals for business or professional purposes must register. In a survey by the registrar's office only 44 per cent of smaller and 58 per cent of larger organizations believed the Act would apply to them. A telephone inquiry service has been set up on Wiltshire (0625) 533777.

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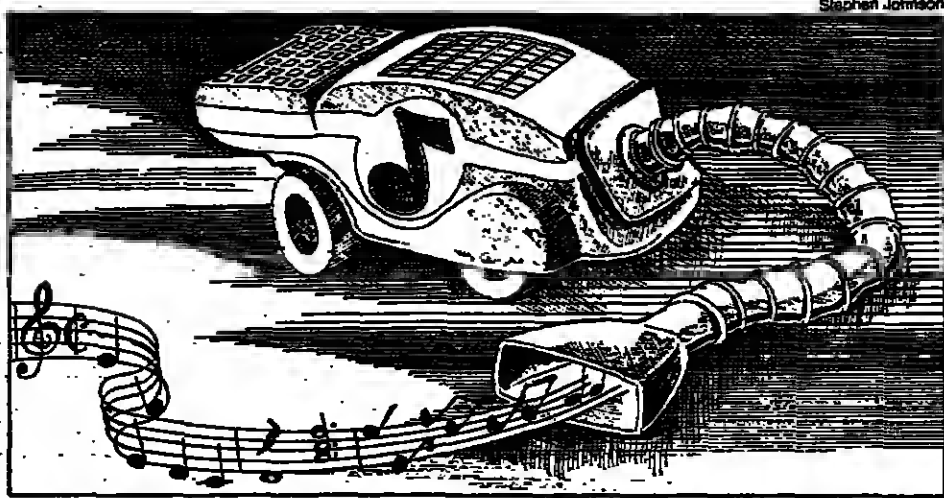
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COMPUTER HORIZONS/3

A quicker way to digital notes

By Nick Hampshire
Typing in program listings for home computers from books and magazines is so time-consuming and error-prone that none but the most enthusiastic will normally attempt such an exercise.



Stephen Johnson

Heinz Nixdorf

Heinz Nixdorf, the founder of West Germany's biggest computer manufacturer, died on March 17 of a heart attack at the age of 66.

He collapsed at a reception at the Hannover Information and Technology Fair and died in hospital.

Herr Nixdorf, who was managing board chairman of Nixdorf AG, came to represent the post-war German image of the self-made man and transformed his passion for electronics into a worldwide concern.

He set up his first workshop in a cellar as a struggling 27-year-old student in 1952 with DM30,000 (about £8,800) of government aid and one assistant.

Today Nixdorf AG employs more than 23,000 people and had a revenue last year of DM4 billion.

The leading West German business magazine *Wirtschaftswoche* described him last year as "Germany's most successful post-war entrepreneur".

The problem of how to publish computer software, and data, in a low-cost printed form has long exercised the minds of both publishers and authors. The solution may now be at hand: machine-readable printed software.

Special patterned strips composed of many small dots are printed on to a page in a paper, magazine or book. By running a small hand-held device down the strip, a program or data is loaded into the attached computer.

The data could be text, graphics, even digitized music. Because the data is printed it provides a cheap alternative to magnetic media or telecommunications for the recording, distribution and retrieval of information.

The concept of being able to print machine-readable software or data on a sheet of paper is not new. Many methods have been tried over the years to produce a cheap means of disseminating computer programs or data.

The most successful has been bar codes of the type now seen on many grocery items.

But the limitation of bar codes is the small amount of data which can be carried on a single page, usually less than 1,000 characters.

This limitation has been overcome by an American firm Cautzin Systems, which has developed an entirely new approach to the problem. The solution is capable of storing up to 50,000 characters on a single sheet of A4 paper, and could generate a substantial new market for low-cost machine-readable data.

Normal printing methods can be used to reproduce the data which is then input into the computer using a hand-

held scanner. The scanner is moved by hand across a page which can be loaded in just over a minute.

The most expensive item in the system is the scanner, which if this form of data dissemination becomes widespread will prove a good investment at £140.

One interesting feature of the technology developed by Cautzin for the scanner is its ability to read the data from the page even if the printed strip has been written upon, scratched, wrinkled, or covered in coffee stains.

It does this by emitting infra-red light which is ab-

sorbed by the ordinary printing ink used to print the data strip. This causes the carbon in the black ink to heat up, a detector measures the heat output from the black areas and uses this information to input the data.

The use of infra-red detection gives the Cautzin reader some interesting abilities. Coffee stains and ink from felt tip pens will not heat up and are therefore ignored by the reader.

Also, by printing on coloured paper the data can be made proof against photocopying, since the extra toner resulting from the coloured

paper will render the strip unreadable.

The developers claim that there is only a chance of one in 10 billion of an undetected data error and that the error correction techniques used mean that data can be successfully read.

The printed strips can be fairly easily generated by a dot matrix printer using software already available from Cautzin for most personal computers. In this manner masters can easily be made for printing or for the transmission of data by letter without further reproduction.

Using this system to print data or programs on to paper offers the user some interesting possibilities. It could be used for secure hard copy storage of archival data. Data and programs could be quickly, easily and securely sent by post.

The Cautzin reader is just coming on the market in the US; the UK is expected to follow within six months, with versions for the IBM PC, Apple II and Macintosh and other machines to follow.

A number of publishers are committed to printing material in the future and if this device lives up to its promise it could have a significant effect on the way computer data or programs are distributed and sold.

Cheap machines worry dealers

By Geoff Wheelwright

The advent of the cheap business computer may be good news for consumers, but it is giving computer dealers a hard time.

Machines compatible with IBM's personal computer and software have tumbled onto the market — making a big splash in the computer media and putting pressure on dealers to drop prices. Dealers say that they don't see much consumer reaction to the flood of inexpensive IBM PC clones from Taiwan.

They also point out that dealers selling machines for £1,000 or less, cannot be expected to give much after-sales service. Yet the price squeeze on main stream dealers could soon see them putting a price on that training and support in order to compete with the cut price importers.

Major companies such as Compaq and Olivetti claim they don't fear competition from Far Eastern importers. But the success of companies such as Amstrad — which has had unprecedented sales in the small business sector with its PCW8256 word processor computer — has shown there is a big market for the right kind of low cost computers.

The company is expected to announce a £1,000 IBM style machine later this year. This could put the frighteners on some of the market leaders which have thus far maintained a fair degree of market share without price cutting. The position for dealers could be even worse — as companies selling the cheap IBM clone create an expectation in the public mind that the price of such machines should be less than £1,000.

The dealers are also having increasing trouble making money on software. The success of companies such as Adam Osborne Paperbacks which sells applications for less than £100 and Borland Software, which has had great success with its low cost Sidekick have meant that dealers tend to make less money on software as well.

Some industry observers suggest that dealers will now turn to training and support. Whatever happens, dealers may have to look at increasingly specialist markets to survive the onslaught of cheap machines, the entry of office equipment companies and High Street retailers (which has been the backbone of the Amstrad machines success) in this highly competitive field.

The big boom in corporate micros

Nearly 100,000 micros were sold to large organizations last year which is more than all previous years combined, according to a survey by the Romtec consultancy. More than half were made by IBM and in the private sector IBM's share rose to over three quarters.

By 1988, the 200-page report predicts, there will be 700,000 micros installed compared to 190,000 today, while the number of software packages will grow from 350,000 to 1.7 million over the same period.

Terminal warning

The TUC has published a series of guidelines on the introduction and use of computer terminals, including the advice that intensive work with them should not occupy more than 50 per cent of each day. It also points out that though reports on the health risks of pregnant women using computer screens are so far inconclusive, the pregnant and those planning to become so should be given the option of working away from them. By 1990, the TUC predicts, more than half the British workforce will regularly use computer screens.

Screen magazine

The Times Network Systems is to provide an electronic database of the monthly magazine *Personal Computer World*. Subscribers will be able to call up past and present news, reviews and features. A £4 a month plus connection charges and will be able to communicate with each other over the national network. *Personal Computer World* was voted *Journal of the Year* in the UK Computer Press Awards sponsored by

COMPUTER BRIEFING

The Times and Hewlett-Packard. Further information from 01-439 4242.

Amstrad launch

Having launched a larger 2574 version of its highly successful word processor, Amstrad is now turning its attention to an IBM-compatible personal computer to be aimed directly at the business market. Amstrad will not confirm any details but *Popular Computing Weekly* magazine predicts that Amstrad will launch two versions of the computer, one with a hard disc drive included and with prices of £700 and £900. Both are said to include a colour monitor, may have better graphics than IBM's own PC and will be announced in the autumn.



'Don't worry. It's not really as hectic as that working here. He's just a poser'

BT in Japan

British Telecom plans to file an application with the Japanese finance ministry this month to list its stocks on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the chairman Sir George Jefferson said in Tokyo last week. Mr Jefferson told reporters that British Telecom may be able to list its stocks in Tokyo by June. Now, stocks of 21 foreign firms are listed on the Tokyo stock market.

Microsoft float

The reigning king of the computer operating systems business, Microsoft, was publicly floated on the US market last week to an enthusiastic response by US

investors. The company sold all of the 2.5 million shares it offered at \$21 each — and issued a subsequent 285,000 shares at that price. By the Friday after the issue, that price had risen to \$29, yielding a final value for the company of more than \$700 million.

The Microsoft flotation is one of the most successful share offerings of a software company.

Jobs on Prestel

For those who want to switch jobs in the computer industry British Telecom's viewdata service, Prestel, has started a computer appointments section on page 560. Job seekers can search the database for vacancies by either job description or salary level and fill in an application form on screen. BT estimates that at current rates there will be 70,000 terminals linked to Prestel by the end of 1986 though many of the sets are used only to access special trade areas of the system.

China show

Displays at China's first major export technology show to be held next month in Shenzhen will range from sophisticated satellite-launching rockets to microwave wine-aging equipment. Jin Zhude, director of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, said that 1,200 products would be displayed for potential buyers at the fair to be held in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone bordering Hong Kong from April 10-20.

The official said that 500 companies from 14 countries have already indicated they plan to attend the fair, aimed at boosting this embryonic sector of the national economy. Most of the displays will be products of national defence industries, particularly those under the ministries of nuclear energy, aviation, ordnance and astronautics, and would be competitive on the international market, Mr Jin said.

Oxtech finally comes of age

By Peter Levi

There are now 186 Oxfordshire hi-tech companies with 36 companies involved in computers. This is revealed in a research paper by Helen Lawton-Smith, sponsored by the Oxford Trust, which intends to relate local research and development activities to relevant businesses.

Oxfordshire's major research institutions employ 10,000 people and include Harwell, Culham and Rutherford. The trust has given an added fillip to changing academic attitudes — it is now acceptable and even laudable for scientists and academics to apply their research in industry and commerce.

One typical example of a company start-up is Oxitech, set up in 1984 by laser experts Malcolm Gower and Phil Rumby, who are two of 500 scientists working at the Rutherford Laboratory. Working evenings and weekends, they provide research on chemical bonds, but without a laser's usual burning effect. The lasers have applications in both plastics and biological tissue, producing clean precise cuts, down to the size of a micron, without damaging the surrounding plastic or tissue.

Oxitech is working with two hospitals to find a method of unblocking arteries by sending laser beams through a fibre. Another company, Oxford Lasers, is a prime example of successful technology transfer working on metal vapour systems in UK hospitals, so that photo-dynamic radiation therapy for treating cancer cells can be further assessed and improved.

But the company to whose achievement many new companies aspire is Oxford Instru-



Sweet wrapping: A robot with vision

ments, started in 1959 by Martin Wood. It was one of the first hi-tech companies in Oxfordshire.

Today it employs 900 people in the UK, has a £60 million turnover and in 1986 will open its fifth local factory. Its philosophy is that when one company in the group gets to a certain size, part is hived off, as well as being a breeding ground for new management.

It is not often that an academic has the courage to make a total break with the university when setting up in business, but this is what Peter Davey, CBE, did at the age of 47. In 1984 he set up Meta

Younger academics set a new trend

Machines, Britain's first company to develop sensor-guided robotic systems, in conjunction with Ed Hudson, previously a senior manager at Unimation. This meant giving up both his research and the job to which he had been seconded running the SERC's robotics research programme.

There is a trend for younger academics to market their own ideas. In 1981, after physics graduates Henry Hyde-Thomson and Ernst Von Weyhausen won an entrepreneurial competition, they set up Grafox. The result is Logistix, a spread-sheet program with time management which cost £395 and has sold 2,500 copies since last September. Having set up an associate company in Madrid, Grafox plans to distribute in

PCs move into the fast lane

By David Guest

A kind of motorway madness has overtaken users of IBM personal computers.

Various means of souping up the system in the PC range have come into vogue and there is no sign that it is passing fad.

By comparison with earlier small computers, and with terminals on larger systems, PCs are fast. Not fast enough, however, to discourage ingenious electronic firms nor apparently to satisfy users.

It started early in the personal computer's life when accelerator boards appeared. These could be slotted into a computer's innards like an extra cylinder in a car engine.

More recently, NEC have devised a processing unit equivalent to that of the PC, but faster — one user reports a 10 per cent improvement for the outlay of £11. This processor switch is akin to cleaning the points, replacing the plugs, and giving the engine a tune-up.

In the last month a neatly packaged go-faster device for users of the PC AT has been introduced in the UK. For about £30, it could improve the speed by around 30 per cent. It consists of a replacement crystal, 16 MHz for the AT's 12, the crystal's rate of oscillation determining the maximum revs of the AT's motor.

Warning noises about new parts

None of these tweaks and tune-ups originate with IBM, the manufacturer of the vehicle. It turned a blind eye to accelerator boards but has made warning noises about the effect of replacement parts on the owner's warranty. Intel, maker of the PC's processor is thought to be taking legal advice about copyright. But

users want speed, and the industry will give it to them. NEC already plans to compete with forthcoming Intel processors doing the same jobs but with 10 to 25 per cent more expedition. The crystal makers in the US are pushing on from the present gains to even higher speeds. A means has already been found of countering IBM's defensive measure on a recent AT

A disc connection has been shelved

model, where the crystal rate was automatically checked when the system was switched on.

These things occasionally get out of step. A UK storage specialist, the Micro Technology Group, has shelved one particular disc connection device because it delivers data from the disc faster than the PC can handle it. This device's day will surely come.

There are, however, several unknowns in the equations. Will the remaining IBM components in a PC be able to survive life in the fast lane? Will programs be affected? Will a speeded up PC user be able to get a system repaired if the need arises?

Users seem willing to accept these risks. In the first place, the processors and crystals are simple plug-in devices. In the second, they cost so little that the benefits they offer seem disproportionately great.

There is also the possibility, according to one UK supplier, that users are simply impatient. The greatest factor yet to be determined concerns a user's perception of time. PCs are generally fast. A 10 per cent improvement on what appears to be instantaneous response may be difficult to detect in normal circumstances.

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Company Legal Executive

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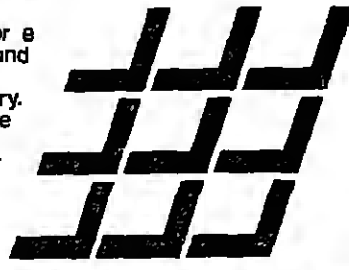
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C.R. Seymour
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An experienced solicitor or barrister is required to advise the Trust's Council and Officers, and the schools on a wide variety of matters affecting both the policy of the Trust and the daily work of the schools. As the post is part time and working hours will be arranged to suit both parties, it may be attractive to those who are recently retired or unable to work full-time because of family commitments. Salary would be pro rata on the Civil Service Legal Officers scale (approximately £15,100). Please write or telephone for full details of the appointment to the Secretary, Girls' Public Day School Trust, Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AN (01-222-9596)

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Adjourned to be agreed

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that is a test in the staff

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear and Christopher Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax AM. News, travel and sports bulletins. Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Debbie Greenwood. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55. Regions: news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. National and International news at 7.30, 7.50, 8.30 and 9.00. Sport at 7.20 and 8.20; and a review of the morning newspapers at 8.37. The Junior and Adult Advice Lines; Alan Titchmarsh with gardening advice; Bob Friend reporting from Hollywood on the Oscar awards with...

TV-AM

6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Episodes at 6.59 and 8.17; news with Jayne Irving at 8.30, 7.06, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.35 and 9.17; pop concert at 7.55; film review at 8.34; Giles Brandreth at 8.45; News at 9.00.

ITV LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines followed by News at Ten. A profile of the polar bear 9.55 Polar Express. News at Ten. The life-styles of the Alaskan Eskimo and the Laplanders. 10.10 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. A new series. Earth and try to take over an underwater atomic base. At Admiral Nelson is equal to the world's best. Science fiction cartoon at 7.24; Poppy cartoon at 7.55; film review at 8.34; Giles Brandreth at 8.45; News at 9.00.

BBC 2

8.55 Open University: Energy - Question of Balance. Ends at 7.29. 9.00 Ceefax. 12.55 Conflict and Change in Education. An Open University programme about streaming in classes. 1.20 Marking in Action. Presenting British managers the fitness at work matters. 1.45 Ceefax. 3.00 Film: The Mortal Storm (1940) starring James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan. Drama, set in 1935 Germany, about the rise of Nazism and the effect this has on a family. Directed by Franz Seitz. 4.35 The Paper Chase. American imported series about the students and staff of a law school. 5.25 News summary with subtitles. Weather. 5.30 The Great Run. Margaret Morgan discusses his travels by barge and boat along the waterways on which the Romans supplied their northern garrisons. This week he is on the Fossdyke near Sedbury in Lincolnshire before moving on to the Chesterford Canal. (First shown on BBC 1).

HOME FRONT (BBC2)

Don McCullin: Home Front. On BBC 2 at 9.55pm. Orwell, taking his own road to Wigan Pier. The picture may be selective. But it constantly raises the question of how people in a supposedly prosperous welfare state come to be living, in McCullin's phrase, "on the edge of living".

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CHOICE

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CHOICE

DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID (Channel 4) is a television premiere of Carl Reiner's 1981 spoof on the Hollywood private eye movie. The actor Traylor Faulstich, is our guide to one of the world's most spectacular religious festivals which takes place from Palm Springs to Las Vegas on Friday in the Spanish city of Sevilla.

CHOICE

Slave Martin) rubs celluloid shoulders with the likes of Barbara Streisand, Humphrey Bogart, Alan Ladd and Joan Crawford. If the device sometimes promises more than it delivers, we are still left with a marvellous anthology of vintage Hollywood.

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CHANNEL 4

2.30 Film: Rumba (1935) starring George Raft and Carole Lombard. A musical drama about a night club dancer in Cuba and his romance with a wealthy New York socialite. Directed by Marion Gering. 2.45 The Last Programme of the magazine series for the older viewer, introduced by Robert Douglas. Among the topics are: the pension scheme announced in last week's Budget; and a report on an over-60s handbook. 4.30 Countdown. The first samurai of the anagrams and mental arithmetic game. 5.00 Bewitched. Darrin is told that a prospective new client is impressed by a forceful approach, but his attempt to impress is frustrated by his mother-in-law's escort. 5.30 More Than Meets the Eye. The fifth of six programmes on flowers and flower arranging, written and presented by Sue Phillips. Among the items this week is a look at masterpieces of early floral art. 6.00 Pop the Question. Pop music nostalgia quiz. The regular team captains - Chris Tarrant and David Hamilton - are joined by Jeremy Pascal, Jan Ravens, Sara Hollamby and Peter Stringfellow. 6.30 Danger Man. British intelligence agent John Drake, is in Hong Kong on the trail of an information leak. Starring Patrick McGoohan and Rupert Davies. 7.00 Cheesecake. A series of news with Alastair Stewart includes a report on education in Germany where industry's requirements play a major role in the curriculum. 7.50 Comment from literary critic, Jacqueline Rose. 8.00 Brookside. Thinking that Sandra is pregnant, Pat offers to marry her. 8.30 4 What's Worth... presented by Penny Junor. John Stoneborough continues an interview with Carlo in Kent, for the Budweiser Trophy. Jackie Stewart partners Gary Coward, and John Watson teams up with Barry Simpson. 9.00 The Bay. Episode ten and Claudius, happily married to Messalina, is surprised to be proclaimed emperor by the Praetorian Guard after the assassination of Caligula. (1)

Radio 4

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News. 7.00 The Archers. 7.20 News reports on the impact of major issues at home and abroad. 8.00 Medicine Now. Geoff Vists reports on the field of medical care. 8.30 The Tuesday Feature. Serrano Serrano. A series of reports on the transformed each year during Holy Week to depict the Passion of Christ. Traylor Faulstich reports. 9.00 In Touch. For people with a visual handicap. 9.30 The Sunday Review. David Mervin recollects attempts to come to grips with life. 10.00 News. 10.15 Correspondent. Life and politics abroad. 10.30 All Stations to the Cross. A Perfect Day written and read by John Le Carré. 10.45 The World Tonight. Daily Service from the Chapel of Lambeth. 11.00 News. 11.15 Minute Theatre. Thirty Minute Theatre. Hear by David Marshall. 11.30 The Sunday Review. World. Tracing the work of the League of Nations. 12.00 News. You and Yours. Consumer advice with Patsy Cowell. 12.27 The Sunday Review. Antonia Fraser and Denis Hodson. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. News. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.45 The Sunday Review. 2.48 The Sunday Review. 3.00 News. 3.45 The Sunday Review. 4.00 News. 4.05 Communism in Crisis. 4.30 News. 4.35 The Sunday Review. 4.40 News. 4.45 The Sunday Review. 4.50 News. 4.55 The Sunday Review. 5.00 News. 5.05 The Sunday Review. 5.10 News. 5.15 The Sunday Review. 5.20 News. 5.25 The Sunday Review. 5.30 News. 5.35 The Sunday Review. 5.40 News. 5.45 The Sunday Review. 5.50 News. 5.55 The Sunday Review. 6.00 News. 6.05 The Sunday Review. 6.10 News. 6.15 The Sunday Review. 6.20 News. 6.25 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News. 6.35 The Sunday Review. 6.40 News. 6.45 The Sunday Review. 6.50 News. 6.55 The Sunday Review. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Sunday Review. 7.10 News. 7.15 The Sunday Review. 7.20 News. 7.25 The Sunday Review. 7.30 News. 7.35 The Sunday Review. 7.40 News. 7.45 The Sunday Review. 7.50 News. 7.55 The Sunday Review. 8.00 News. 8.05 The Sunday Review. 8.10 News. 8.15 The Sunday Review. 8.20 News. 8.25 The Sunday Review. 8.30 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SPORT

England out of luck and out of touch

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Barbados

Before the present Test series started Vivian Richards, the West Indian captain, let it be known how thankful he was that he would not himself be spending the next two months facing the West Indian fast bowlers.

He said so not as propaganda, but out of a genuine understanding of what lay ahead of England's batsmen and the likely effect it would have on them, as it probably would on him. Sunday's play here in the third Test provided a prime example of what he meant.

When it ended, thousands of England's supporters, some of whom had been saving up for years to come to Barbados for the match, were shocked by what they had seen. To many of them, the technical and psychological problems of playing Garner, Marshall, Holding and Patterson for hours on end are a closed book.

But what in fact they had witnessed was a morning's bowling which no batsman that I know would have wanted to back himself to survive, and an evening when the demoralizing effect of facing non-stop high-class fast bowling was grimly apparent.

As England showed against Australia last summer, they can be a very good batting side. As such, they should obviously have been capable of scoring the 119 runs they needed now, with nine wickets in hand, to save the follow-on and so extend the match.

Instead, shaken by their previous failures, disconcerted by finding conditions so much in favour of the bowlers and badly out of form, they failed by 30 runs. Against their own bowling, or Australia's, it would have been a different matter, a different game. Sad as it undoubtedly was,

there was also a technical explanation for England's first innings collapse. One local pundit, a West Indian Test cricketer, said he reckoned that perhaps only once a year would he see the ball move about as it did on Sunday morning.

An uneven bounce only added to the difficulties of batting. England's second failure of the day, after tea, was due much more to a lack of spirit, and it was because of

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team/Player, Runs/Wickets. Includes West Indies First Innings and England First Innings.

It is hard enough at the best of times playing the West Indian fast bowlers. To try and do so with so much on the mind as Botham has, and with no-one to help him sort it out, is, as we saw, the recipe for a brainstorm. It was like some Greek drama, as melancholy in its way as anything I have ever seen on a cricket field.

The best place for him at the moment might be at home, just trying to sort things out. In Australia later this year it will all be much easier, I expect. Tours to the West Indies have become unlike any others. But that is no reason, pompous though it may sound, for overlooking the need for the qualities that make an officer, and for others that make a company sergeant major and others a good coach.

David Gower spoke quietly and thoughtfully yesterday of the problems and the disappointments. On reflection he says he would have liked to have batted first. He asked the head groundsman before the match, as I did, what he thought of the pitch and got the same answer: "It will be no place for batting on the first morning."

So he did as most others would have done, armed with such advice, and fielded. It gave England their best chance of taking the initiative, but in the event they bowled poorly. "We have to make such decisions on the first morning of the match, not the morning of the rest day," he said. "My style of captaincy has not changed since last summer and it was good enough then, I shall be having a word with the team to say that pride matters and we've still got a tour to finish."

I have seen exactly the same thing happen to an Australian side in South Africa (1969-70), an England side in Australia (1974-75) and a West Indian side in Australia (1975-76), always because one side has been strong in fast bowling and the other not. It is horrible when it occurs, not least because the symptoms are so lowering.

It was so hard to bear. I have seen exactly the same thing happen to an Australian side in South Africa (1969-70), an England side in Australia (1974-75) and a West Indian side in Australia (1975-76), always because one side has been strong in fast bowling and the other not. It is horrible when it occurs, not least because the symptoms are so lowering.

In the last hour on Sunday England played as though they had lost heart. Barring was still far from straightforward. But England were in desperate straits, and this was a Test



A word in Botham's ear, but Gower has failed to talk the all-rounder out of his disappointing spell

Test for Robson's forward planning

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Thess, Soviet Union

If Don Howe's own future is shrouded in dark confusion, there are three black clouds on the horizon for the England team that he coaches. The manager, Bobby Robson, admitted yesterday that there were potential weaknesses in each area of the side that would play against the Soviet Union here tomorrow.

Robson said he would be looking for "the pace that is so essential to us in defence". That statement suggests that Martin, whose lack of speed was exposed early on in Israel last month, is to be left out in favour of Wright, even though his other vulnerabilities have been painfully clear in the past.

"Our defensive record matches any in the world," Robson claimed. "Since I took over four years ago we have not been beaten only twice in the five international so far this season, the opposition has been relatively meagre and Robson considers that "we must defend better".

He is also looking for "someone to play when Bryan Robson is not there". The captain confirmed his value in Tel Aviv by scoring both goals but he remains frighteningly prone to injury. He will be replaced in midfield by Bracewell, Cowans or, more probably, Hodge.

The unique player

"We won't find another player like Robson," the manager said. "He is unique. Even Platini doesn't go around winning the ball. France give him a free role and allow him to play in the last 40 yards. But, with Wilkins and Hiddle as supplies, we need someone there to nick the odd goal for us."

The other position that troubles Robson is the most controversial. He is yet again to launch his attack with a winger. In the absence of Barnes, it is certain to be Waddle. "I want to find out if the system which I have tried for some time can work at the highest level," Robson said.

"If we can solve those problems, we have a chance anywhere. Although there is little opportunity to see the Soviets in action, I have a vivid memory of their performance at Wembley two years ago when they were fitter, stronger, quicker and brighter than us."

The formation will be led by Hodgey, who stayed with Wilkins and Cowans in Moscow last night after the inordinately lengthy journey from Italy, and Linaker, Woodcock, limping on a swollen foot, may not be fit enough to join the substitutes, but he is the only debut in the squad.

Howe, though, is suffering from wounded pride. He confirmed that he had not resigned as Arsenal's manager on Saturday, but merely asked to be released from his contract which is to end in May. If his request is refused, he will stay on "because I am a professional and it is a matter of self-respect".

Secretive approaches

He felt, understandably, that Arsenal had let him down by making secretive approaches to Terry Venables. "For all they knew, I might have been looking around myself and talking to other clubs during the last 12 months. It is the way the whole business has been conducted that hurts and it has hurt me very deeply," he said.

Howe was also upset that Arsenal's chairman, Peter Hill-Wood, had tossed a coin for the choice of venue halfway through extra time in their FA Cup fifth round replay against Luton Town without consulting him. The move did not allow Howe, who might not have been willing to take the risk of another game on the artificial surface at Kenilworth Road, to change tactics in the closing stages of the tie.

He is not deterred by the almost inevitable prospect of joining a smaller club. His passion for the game remains as fiery as ever, but he is now more wary, less trusting. "I wouldn't mind going down a division or two," he said, "but the people I would be working for would have to be right."

Robson was surprised by Howe's decision, but understands his motives. They know each other well. Their friendship started 30 years ago when they played together for West Bromwich Albion. Now they are combining again in the Soviet Union and Howe, in particular, is grateful for that. The forthcoming fixture will keep his troubled mind occupied.

More football, page 30

OLYMPIC BOOST FOR CITY

Birmingham selected for new indoor arena

Birmingham's ambition to stage the 1992 Olympic Games was given a boost yesterday when the city was chosen for the site of Britain's first national indoor sports arena.

The Sports Council chose Birmingham in preference to Manchester, Milton Keynes and two sites in London. The decision means that if the details for the Birmingham scheme are agreed, the project will get a grant of £3 million towards the £18 million cost. The arena, which would

hold 8,000 spectators, is planned for the city centre and would be linked to a conference centre. Work could start next year and although Sports Council officials insisted that Birmingham had not been picked because of the possibility of the Olympic Games being held in the city, the arena should be finished before 1992.

The Sports Council are also prepared to give financial help to the London Dome - a sports arena planned for London's dockland

BADMINTON

Downey to remain in charge

Jake Downey, who has been under fire from his top players in recent weeks, is to carry on as the England manager.

Nine leading players had petitioned for Downey's removal from the post, but yesterday the Badminton Association of England's executive committee announced a unanimous vote of confidence in the manager - who will lead the team to both the European and world team championships.

Significant changes have been made, however, among them the inclusion of a supporting managerial team made up of a selector and a coach for both events. Invitations have also been extended to Nory Perry and Martin Dew, who were originally excluded by Downey because they refused to travel with the squad to the world team championships in Indonesia.

The selectors also arranged, against Downey's wishes, for the team to travel to Jakarta three days later than originally planned. Sadly the compromise may not work. Mrs Perry, England's best known and most successful player in recent years, is still sticking by her statement that she will not play for England while Downey is in charge. Dew, meanwhile, says he will travel five days later, not three.

Despite the problems, the manager is delighted with the vote of confidence. "Perhaps we can now get on with the business of winning," he said. There may, however, still be a twist or two to the tale. Some of the players are surprised that he has survived when they believed they had won the support of the selectors. Several expressed their disappointment at the outcome.

Once again the two leading singles players, Steve Baddeley and Helen Troke, were outspoken. "We had hoped for more than this," Baddeley said, while Miss Troke, the European champion, described it as "a negative response".

Two more controversial issues may present themselves. Firstly, if Mrs Perry sticks to her current stand then it is doubtful whether she will be able to play for England in the Commonwealth Games. Secondly, the EBA has reiterated its belief that the manager's job be separated into two roles as soon as money is available. If that happens, then players' wishes will have been answered.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Budd on way to greatness

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Neuchâtel

Zola Budd is on her way to becoming the greatest woman athlete in the history of cross-country running if she can survive the censure attached to her links with South Africa.

Miss Budd's second runaway victory in the world championships here last year came against less than top opposition. But there is more than a suspicion that runners such as Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, training for marathons, and Maricica Puica simply decided not to compete, thus avoiding a crushing defeat by the youngster.

Mrs Waitz is one of two women who have won this championship on five occasions, the other being Doris Brown, of the United States, who competed before the race became an official world championship and when there were only half a dozen countries participating. In the women's race on Sunday 28 countries took part.

Miss Budd has won twice in succession and is likely to continue until a similarly talented runner emerges, because Mary Slaney, the only woman athlete capable of beating Miss Budd in this sort of race, will never risk her

SPORT IN BRIEF

Penalty for Connors

New York - Jimmy Connors has been fined \$20,000 dollars (£13,400) and suspended for 10 weeks for defaulting in a match last month, the men's International Professional Tennis Council (IPTC) announced yesterday. He therefore stands to miss the French Open starting on May 26.

Connors defaulted his semi-final match against Ivan Lendl in the Lipton international at Boca Raton, Florida, and was notified of the IPTC decision last Monday, when he had 30 days to appeal.

Connors is playing in a tournament in Chicago this week. If he began his suspension immediately afterwards he would not be able to play again until the Queen's Club tournament before Wimbledon.

Waller returns

Chris Waller, the former Sussex cricketer, has rejoined Surrey to captain the second XI and help coach.

GOLF

Holdings go out to assistants

By John Hennessy

The freakish weather in Berkshire, as elsewhere yesterday, produced one particularly freakish result in the Sunningdale Foursomes - the defeat of the holders, Sam Torrance and John O'Leary, Ryder Cup players both.

On the face of it, their second round tie against two assistants on level terms (after a bye in the first round) had the makings of a gentle introduction to the main business of the week. But while they could not readily come to terms with the boisterous wind and uncomfortable cold, Gary Vautier (Downshire) and Gary Steel (Wexham Park) pitched into them coming home and despatched the champions with an unlikely birdie at the home hole.

The day began unpropitiously for the senior pair when Torrance lost a ball at the first hole. In spite of that they reached the turn two up and the expected pattern seemed to be taking shape. It looked rather like a four and three touch, besting down.

Even losing the 10th with a six, two over par, seemed not to disturb them, for they won the next hole with a birdie. But the 12th extracted three putts and the 16th brought the pairs level again, when O'Leary drove short and Torrance hooked wide.

After a fine bunker shot by Vautier he saved the 17th hole and on the first fairway of the last tee, Steel, newly turned professional, had no shot to the green but he had the final shot in his locker when he holed triumphantly from 15 feet.

The 1984 winners, Mary McKenna and Maureen Gagner, fared better with a cushion of nine shots against Dennis Newham (Pitdown) and Michael Andrews (Highwoods), so much better indeed that their opponents could not look beyond them as likely winners - this week Newham, a Pitdown assistant, thought "someone would have to play under-par golf well under-par golf to beat them".

The women took advantage of their stroke holes and played solid golf to prevent a masculine counter-attack on the remaining holes. Even a 20-yard birdie putt at the 14th availed Newham nothing, for only an eagle would have kept the match alive against a net four.

Final victory

Bromont, Quebec (UPI) - Paul Frommelt, of Liechtenstein, won the parallel for the men and Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, won for the women in the final World Cup skiing races on Sunday. The results had no bearing on final positions.

More cash

The prize money on the Scottish golf circuit will exceed £300,000 for the first time this year. The Scottish region of the PGA, who announced details of their tournament schedule yesterday, said that £336,000 will be at stake, an increase of £76,000 on 1985. The "Tartan Tour" surpassed £100,000 in 1980 and £200,000 in 1983. The Dryburgh Scottish Professional Championship runs from August 7 to 10.

Schuster lured

Hamburg (Reuter) - Hamburg are trying to lure Borussia's unsettled West German midfielder, Bernd Schuster, back to West Germany, the Hamburg president, Wolfgang Klein, said yesterday.

Getty's gift

Paul Getty has donated £10,000 to Kent County Cricket Club's appeal fund to provide a multi-storey stand on the St Lawrence ground at Canterbury. The appeal has raised £150,000.

FAST LOANS advertisement with details of APR rates, loan amounts, and contact information for Nottingham Finance.